

More Ideas • More Tips • More Style What's inside matters most...

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# Home for Christmas

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A family of four is gathered in a bright living room. A woman sits on a white sofa holding a young child. A man sits on a chair, interacting with a boy who is standing near a large, decorated Christmas tree. The room is festively decorated with hanging paper snowflakes and ornaments. In the foreground, a wooden dining table is set with plates, glasses, and a candle holder. A stack of wrapped gifts sits on the floor under the table.

## Beautiful furniture delivered in time for Christmas

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and 4 chairs.  
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**Sale £895**  
Bench.  
Was £219 **SAVE £60**  
**Sale £159**

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So much to love X

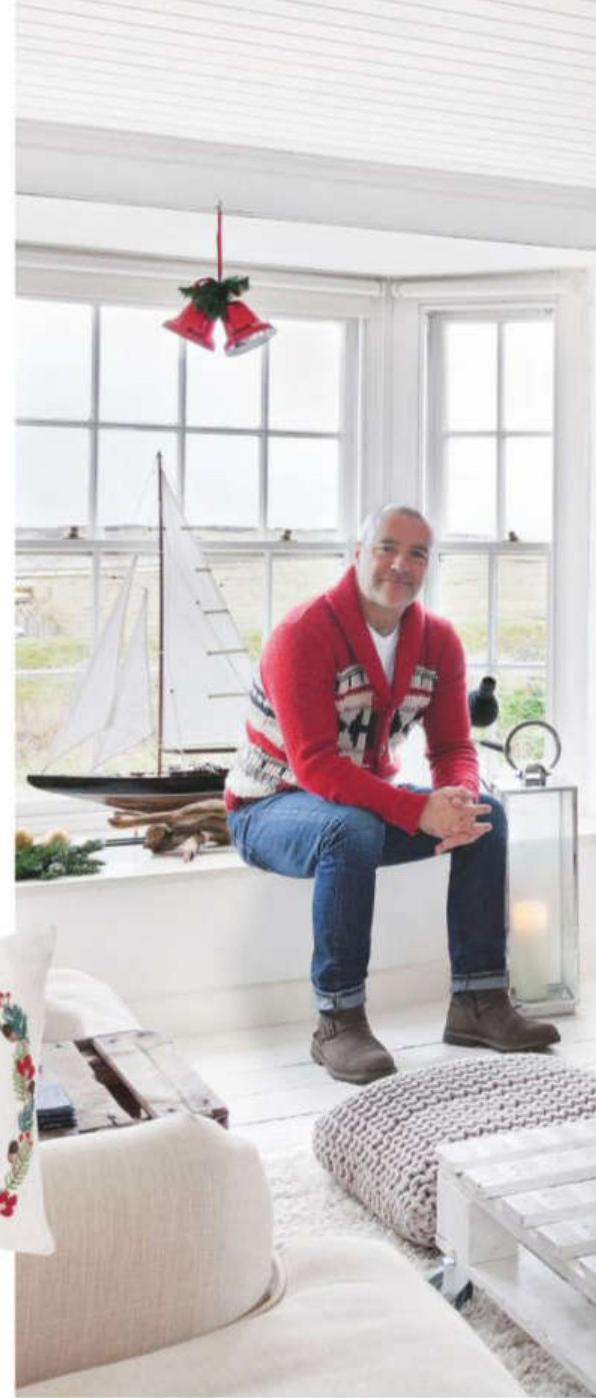
# In this issue...

...make yourself a cuppa, put on your fluffiest slippers and *snuggle in* – we've got all you need to get set for the big day. Create a **magical mood** with seasonal buys (page 12), turn a kids' bedroom into an **enchanted grotto** (page 20) and discover a new decorating theme with our round-up of this year's **Christmas trends** (page 31). We've got your gift list covered with our guide to the **best presents for under £50** (page 36), find out how to give your home an **elegant country look** for a relaxed Christmas (page 101) and don't miss our recipes for our favourite **festive tipples** on page 167. Cheers!



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Get ready for  
the festivities  
with our top buys



## ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 4

Embrace the festive season and create a celebratory mood with our top finds

Find the perfect presents for loved ones with our high-street edit

Try a new look at Christmas with this year's trends

Create a relaxed, welcoming feel in your home with our decorating tips



Please a crowd with our guide to the best traditional Christmas lunch

Check out our favourite gift ideas and best seasonal homeware buys

Take a look inside four inspirational homes decorated for Christmas

Discover beautiful decorations to bring the magic into your home



### READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition at [housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine](http://housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine)



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**SHOPPING DIRECTORY**  
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS  
FEATURED IN IDEAL HOME, TURN TO **PAGE 216**



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# My to-do list for December

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

**W**ith Christmas on the way, I'll be getting prepared, creating a beautiful mess with the kids and planning a get-together.

**ENJOYING THE RUN-UP** As with any holiday, I enjoy the planning of Christmas as much as the event itself. I'll gladly sacrifice my precious weekend sofa time to throw myself into a whirl of organising. Anything that requires lists generally makes me happy and Christmas inspires a lot of them! I'll make sure the house is sparkling, dealing with dusty skirting and corner cobwebs that I don't mind living with the rest of the year, just because I know Ma Richmond notices these things. I'll add whisky to my Ocado order with Pa Richmond in mind and put a reminder in my phone to buy both the *Radio Times* and *TV Times*, even though they both cover all the channels these days, because my sister and I still go through them circling what we want to watch.

**GETTING HANDS-ON** I'm not a hardcore crafter, but I do enjoy making things at Christmas, especially if the littlest Richmonds are involved. From wonky mince pies to paper chains and home-made cards, 'tis the season when the quality of the results is utterly outweighed by the truth of 'it's the thought that counts'. The children treat

me like another kid on these occasions, reminding me that 'we have to share, Auntie Nessa' if I hog the glue stick and giving me disapproving looks if I pretend to sneeze out green glitter. Now they're old enough to play with cool stuff, I've been looking at gifts with my own secret agenda. I hope Santa brings the *Frozen* Sparkling Ice Castle Lego set this year!

**HOSTING A WRAP PARTY** No, not the celebrity kind, but the sort where you get folks to bring all the gifts they need to wrap and get down to it in a mass frenzy of paper, gold ribbon, sticky tape and snacks. Christmas jumpers, or at the very least comedy reindeer antlers, are obligatory. As are crooners on the stereo and an abundance of Quality Street. This way, I hope, I'll dodge the usual last-minute wrap panic on Christmas Eve, falling in to bed just before the littlest Richmonds wake us all up with shouts of 'He's been!!!!'.



The aim: not to still be wrapping gifts at 1am on Christmas morning



Christmas is a time to get creative

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## HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobs, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

♥ Go to [housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine](http://housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine) to see more of what we do – you can sign up to our treat of a weekly newsletter there, too...

# What's behind a Howdens kitchen?





Turn the page to read our story...

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IDEAL HOME

# Shopping Spy

See Style Editor Michela's  
essential edit of what's  
in the shops this month



Follow my blog  
[homeshoppingspy.com](http://homeshoppingspy.com)

## String along

A versatile accessory in  
classic Christmas colours

Pompom garland,  
£7.50, Berry Red

## What a star

Hang this simple piece  
for instant Scandi style

Grey star hanging decoration,  
£5.75, Scandi Living

## High light

Team with an Edison bulb  
for a cool industrial look  
Brooklyn antique flat  
pendant light in Dark  
Pewter, £69, Industville

## Wise words

Put up this  
cute sign for a  
warm welcome

Have Yourself  
print, £31.99,  
Art.co.uk

## Natural touch

Go for a rustic  
vibe with a soft  
linen design

Lexington cushion,  
£62, Dash & Albert  
range, Kensington  
Design

## Stay warm

Start the day with  
a festive cuppa

Red espresso  
cup, £4.95,  
Dotcomgiftshop

## MOOD OF THE MOMENT...

# Merry morning

Gather round for a lively family breakfast  
and get set for the excitement of the day

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## Table talk

Add a farmhouse feel

Baxter distressed dining table  
(H76cm x W220cm x D95cm),  
£799, Out & Out Original

## In the bag

Fill with gifts  
for your guests

Snowflake present  
sack, £12.50, Cox & Cox



## Red alert

Keep it simple with  
this two-tone design

Red reactive  
dinnerware, £50  
for a 12 piece set,  
Sainsbury's



## Wood works

Get in the festive spirit  
with a classic sled

Sleigh, £7.99, HomeSense

## All white

Choose a frosted  
faux tree

Swift 6ft medium  
flocked noble  
artificial tree, £135,  
White Stores



Give your dining room Scandi style with a simple red and white palette  
Portobello table, £199;  
Marseille chairs, £49 each;  
stool, £25; red dinnerware,  
£20 for a 12-piece set;  
all Tesco Direct

BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE

## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



**Get organised in style**  
Christmas countdown board, Dunelm

See more finds on Michela's blog  
[homeshoppingspy.com](http://homeshoppingspy.com)



RESCUING *the* BLAND



***Animal magic***

Go for a forest feel with a trio of creatures  
Woodland scene glass bauble, £3.50, Tesco Direct

## Everybody's DOING...

# Snow scenes

Create a frosty winter wonderland with glass domes and delicate hanging decorations

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

***Hats off***

Add a touch of glitter with this smart chap  
Penguin in a globe, £5, Marks & Spencer

***Hello Santa***

For a rustic look  
Light up scene, £12, The Contemporary Home

***Let it snow***

Shake it up for a magical moment  
Snow globe, £22, Laura Ashley

***Festive find***

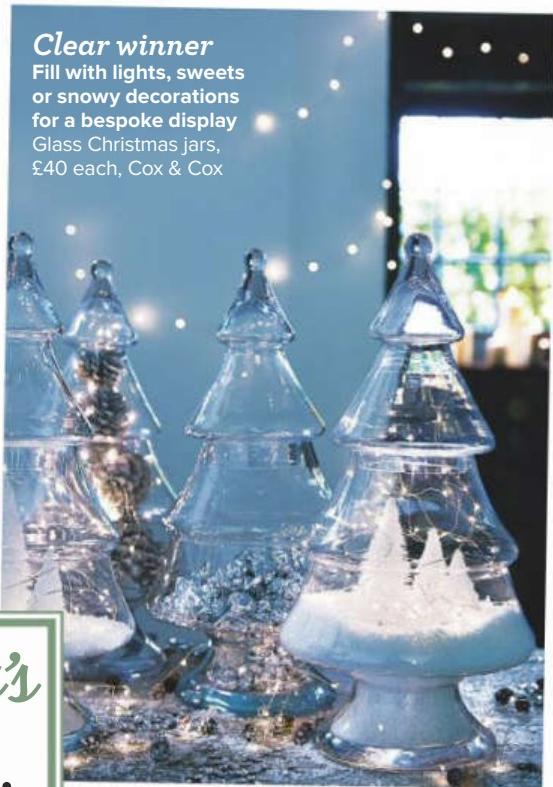
Sure to be a classic year after year  
Glass dome decoration, £3.50, Tesco Direct

***White out***

Update a snow globe with a cool bark-effect base  
Deer's snow globe, £25, House of Fraser

***Clear winner***

Fill with lights, sweets or snowy decorations for a bespoke display  
Glass Christmas jars, £40 each, Cox & Cox



## GET THE LOOK IN 3 BUYS

### Peacock blue

***Finest feathers***

Bring a sense of opulence to your scheme  
Wreath, The Contemporary Home



£55



£3.50

***Glitter ball***

Sparkling in a spectrum of blues  
Peacock glitter bauble, Notonthehighstreet.com



£649

***Sitting pretty***

Recline in comfort on the big day  
Eltham chair in Lasenby Teal, Marks & Spencer

## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£14.50 for two



Bring a little Christmas cheer  
Festive tea towels, Rockett St George

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

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## SO HOT Right Now

Polar bears are having a moment



## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



Wish your diners well with a happy hidden message  
Gold-rimmed plate, H&M

See more finds on Michela's blog [homeshoppingspy.com](http://homeshoppingspy.com)

## THE NEXT BIG THING Precious minerals

Designers are being inspired by the Earth's natural gems

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**THE STORY SO FAR** Traditional white marble has been a key trend for some time, but it's coloured marble and the swirling layers of malachite, onyx and agate that keep cropping up in high-end design for furniture, accessories and wallcoverings.

**WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT** Ahead of the trend was Fornasetti at Cole & Son, which launched its Malachite wallpaper in 2007. In 2013, Patricia Urquiola commemorated the Emilia earthquake with a collection of furniture and accessories made from layers of coloured marble and onyx unearthed by the disaster. The Albatre wallpaper design by Casamance followed in 2014, succeeded by the swirling marble-effect Makrana wallpaper from Harlequin this year.

**LATEST RELEASES** Jonathan Adler has added malachite-effect accessories to his quirky collection. Tom Faulkner's Siena side table and Gubi's Gamfræt series of side and coffee tables come in green, black and brown marble. The high street has already caught on, so look out for agate coasters at Marks & Spencer, black and green marble-effect ceramics at H&M, and hints of emerald and onyx-effect agate in John Lewis' Indulgence collection.

**Shelf life**  
With a luxe hint of gold  
Green marble shelf, £68, MiaFleur

**Stone's throw**  
Comes in three hues  
Terazzo cushion, £45, Bloomingville range, Amara

**Natural beauty**  
Each piece is unique  
Agate decorative object, £40, John Lewis

**Top table**  
Inspired by the glamorous Thirties  
Medium TS table, £520, Viaduct



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feet-upmanship.

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A quality sofa that'll add a touch of class to any living space. [harveysfurniture.co.uk](http://harveysfurniture.co.uk)

Copenhagen Sofa in leather from £999, fabric from £899, shown with the Quintrell Large Sideboard  
in black from £799 and Titan Coffee Table from £449.

**Bay Leather  
Republic**  
COLLECTION

HARVEYS

## 3 of the best CHRISTMAS TABLEWARE

**Star buy**  
Perfect for a steaming hot chocolate  
Red Christmas mug, H&M  
£5.99

**Cake anyone?**  
Serve up in style  
Christmas pie slice, Ashley Thomas at Home range, Debenhams  
£12

**Bowled over**  
Fill with treats and indulge in front of the fire  
Christmas bowls, Scandi Living  
£7.50 each



## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£20

Opt for a folksy motif  
Tis the season to be jolly cushion, House of Fraser

See more finds on Michela's blog [homeshoppingspy.com](http://homeshoppingspy.com)

## This month we love...



Holly Catford, Acting Style and Decorating Assistant

'The way that George's playful new range of decorations teams traditional Christmas characters with fun Americana'

## IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget



£25

Modern monochrome  
Hang in the living room or hallway  
Christmas stocking, Ferm Living range, Smalable



£7.50

Dotty design  
Add a sense of fun with a splattered effect  
Paint dotted stocking, Paperchase

{ FOR GREAT CHRISTMAS SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS }

call 0330 333 4555 and quote code AVM5 or visit [magazinesdirect.com/AVM5](http://magazinesdirect.com/AVM5)

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IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Playful Prints



For details of this moodboard,  
turn to page 96

Create a celebratory mood by spelling festive words in light-up letters

# NOEL



## YOUR RECEIPT

<b>Cushion,</b> Cath Kidston.....	£35
<b>Cloche,</b> Sainsbury's.....	£12
<b>Lamp,</b> Cath Kidston.....	£75
<b>Shopping trolley,</b> Great Little Trading Co.....	£50
<b>Nutcracker,</b> House of Fraser.....	£30

**TOTAL** £202



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT  
[housetohome.co.uk/christmas](http://housetohome.co.uk/christmas)

# CASH CLEVER *Decorator*

## Get a festive kids' room for less than £205

Create a lively scheme for Christmas with bold colours, robot prints and touches of retro style

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Mix ditsy, playful patterns in a bold yuletide palette of red, frosty white and aqua blue

**A dog's life**  
This cutie was inspired by Cath's own pooch  
Billie lamp, Cath Kidston

£75

**Light it up**  
Try this seasonal alternative to a night light  
Christmas scene light-up cloche, Sainsbury's

£12

**Merry and bright**

Add a cheery touch with a lively red cushion  
Hampstead red rose cushion, Cath Kidston

£35

**Trolley dash**  
A brilliant substitute for a present sack  
Wooden shopping trolley, Great Little Trading Co

£50



**Hit the beat**  
For classic Christmas charm  
Drumming nutcracker, House of Fraser

£30

## IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

**Sweet dreams**  
Suits both modern and traditional schemes  
Wilton single bedstead in white, John Lewis

£145



**Head in the clouds**  
Counter a colourful room with a simple white design  
Avebury single bed frame in Whitewash, Argos

£110



See more shopping inspiration over the page ►

# Find more kids' bedroom buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Give children's bedrooms a yuletide touch with fun accessories and festive bedding in a red and white palette.

## TRY IT IN A SCANDI SCHEME

Go for a classic effect with pared-back, Scandi-style decorations from Tesco Direct. Choose soft textiles and rustic

touches for a cosy feel, then add personality with Christmas characters.

## ... OR WITH COOL KITSCH PRINTS

Create a retro look with playful Fifties-inspired designs from BHS, including teddy-bear motifs, statement lettering and traditional Santa illustrations.



## Silent night

**Give them sweet dreams**  
Sack, £5; 'Santa this way' sign, £3.50; stockings, £1 each; jingle cushion; reindeer cushion; both £10 each; nutcracker soldier, £4; all Tesco Direct



## Retro vibe

**Play around with some fun-filled prints**  
Double Jolly Holiday bedding set, £40; double Santa One More Sleep bedding set, £40; all BHS

£6

## Snow show

**Get in the right spirit with this winter-inspired scene**  
Christmas mug, Belle & Boo

£22

## Shaken up

**The perfect stocking filler**  
Santa snow globe, Debenhams



£30

**JOY**

**Letters have it**  
Place in a window to give guests a warm welcome  
Lit joy sign, Sainsbury's

## FIND ALL THE DETAILS

**DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Wall painted in Blissful Blue silk emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. Stars G23104 wallpaper, £29.95 per roll, Galerie range, Wallpaperdirect. Sisal Fine Boucle flooring in Platinum, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. Elis rug, £220, Cox & Cox. Blind made in Suffolk Check S Bluebell, £24.50 per m, Ian Mankin; border made in Bramley Sprig Cotton Duck, £20 per m, Cath Kidston. Windsor white single bedsteads, £180 each; Ragley single mattresses, £99.99 each; all Dunelm. Star bedside cabinet, £65; toy-box seat, £135; wooden shopping trolley, £50; all Great Little Trading Co. 7ft pre-lit Christmas tree, £195, John Lewis. **ON LEFT-HAND BED** Cotton sateen fitted sheet, £30; red check household pillowcase, £14; red check single duvet cover, £40; all Cologne & Cotton. Robots polkadot single duvet cover with pillowcase, £45;

cushion made in Woodland Rose Cotton Duck, £20 per m; gifts wrapped in Ditsy Christmas, £9 for three rolls; Ditsy pyjama set, £26; stocking, £15; all Cath Kidston. Red stripe giftwrap, £1.50 per sheet, Dots and Spots. Personalised hand-made doll, £55, Leah Halliday range; Nutcracker soldier giftwrap, £1.50 per sheet, Julia Davey range; both Notonthehighstreet.com. Knitted bobble cat toy, £10, Emily Button range, Marks & Spencer. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON RIGHT-HAND BED** Cotton sateen fitted sheet; red check Household pillowcase; red check single duvet cover; Robots polkadot single duvet cover with pillowcase; all as before. Robots cushion, £22; Robots pyjama set, £26; both Cath Kidston. 1935 Fellow terrier, £145; Classic 1909 teddy bear, £115; both Steiff. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** Billie lamp, £75, Cath Kidston. Christmas light-up cloche, £12, Sainsbury's. **INSIDE**

**TROLLEY** Presents wrapped in Nutcracker soldier giftwrap; red stripe giftwrap; Ditsy Christmas giftwrap; ribbons; all as before. Nutcracker soldier gift tag, 85p, Julia Davey range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Spotty giftwrap, £1.50 per sheet, Dots and Spots. **ON SHELF** (from left) Rainbow decoration, £3, George. Advent calendar, £14.99, Dunelm. Grand Prix racer, £22, Hedgehog, Nutcracker soldiers, £30 each, House of Fraser. Noel lighting set, £99.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. Robots, from £24 each, After Noah. **ON/NEAR TREE** Christmas bunting, £15, Halfpinthome range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Festive Christmas stocking kits, from £9.50 each, LoveCrochet. Decorations, from a selection, George, House of Fraser and LoveCrochet. Personalised hand-made doll, as before. **ON BENCH** Seat cushion, £25, Great Little Trading Co. House sewing basket, £58, Cath Kidston



## Make yourself at home

Bring cosy comfort to colder months with sumptuous velvets and rich colours

Eva sofa in Fox velvet £2,175; Velvet cushions from £40, Tolsey rug £340,

Fox and Cranberry Velvet £40 per metre, Chestnut paint from £34

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Stores nationwide

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NEPTUNE

**PERSONAL STYLE**  
‘I’ve always designed things that I like and would want in my own home – that’s really important to me,’ says Emma



## HIGH STREET *Heroes*

# Emma Bridgewater

Meet the English designer whose much-loved pottery has graced dining tables for 30 years

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

**H**aving produced 15 million mugs after the first ones left the production line in 1985, Emma Bridgewater is incredibly proud to be still running her successful business producing unique pottery and homeware. Set up after Emma tried unsuccessfully to find a birthday present for her mother, the company now produces some of the most recognisable pottery designs on the market.

‘I was looking for a special cup and saucer for my mum’s dresser, but just couldn’t find anything I liked,’ explains Emma. ‘I realised that there was a gap in the market for pottery that was both beautiful and practical.’

Today, the company is run by Emma and her husband Matthew Rice,

a painter, designer and author. Emma is responsible for the brand’s signature spongeware patterns, while Matthew works on its collections, such as the popular Black Toast range.

Most of the production work is still done by hand at the factory in Staffordshire, and each piece is slightly different. The company, one of the largest employers in Stoke-on-Trent, has recently expanded into glass, tins, picnicware and home fragrances, as well as a wallpaper and fabric collection for Sanderson.

### THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Emma grew up in Oxford and just outside Cambridge, spending time with both her parents, who divorced when she was a child. She and



### JUST MY TYPE

Make your nearest and dearest feel cosseted over the holiday season

Double duvet, £55; pillowcases, £9 each; all Black Toast range, Emma Bridgewater. Below: Cake plate, £49.95; side plate, £17.95; both Christmas Joy Robin range, Emma Bridgewater



Matthew now live near Oxford and have four children. ‘I am equally at home with grass or paving stones underfoot,’ she says. ‘I went to Oxford High School, which I completely loved, and I’m proud to be a governor there now. I then read English Literature at the University of London – the perfect training for a life in the manufacturing industry,’ she laughs.

In the early Eighties, Emma worked briefly for a company called Warm &



Wonderful, which made woolly jumpers and other clothing. 'It was a fantastic company and a great experience,' she says. 'A year spent visiting women knitting in their houses was fascinating, but it probably made me more determined than ever to have a factory of my own one day.'

#### CAREER PATH

Although Emma never trained as a designer, she had experimented with making sponge-painted ceramics, so when it came to creating the perfect cup and saucer for her mother, it seemed natural to design it herself. That led to working from her bedroom in a flat

in southwest London, where she kept a kiln and designed and made mugs, jugs and dishes. 'It was clear early on that people liked my ideas, perhaps because I've never been a slavish follower of fashion,' she says. 'I still find it exciting that we make things that people want to buy and have in their homes.'

Christmas is an important time for Emma, both personally and for the company. 'Christmas is a time for feasting and for making a

**“Christmas is a time for feasting and for making a table look rich and full”**

#### WHAT A HOOT

Decorate a dresser with these seasonal owl designs on a midnight-blue background  
Plates, from £39.95 for two; mug, £39.95 for two; all Owls range, Emma Bridgewater



look wonderfully rich and full, so it's a great time for buying pottery,' she says. 'This year, we have the most delicious turkey platter with a large multicoloured turkey walking across it, made using eight separate sponge colours. I think it's one of our nicest patterns to date.'

Emma will be spending Christmas at home with the family this year. It's an environment that reflects her love of the simple things in life and her approach to design. 'My house is fairly messy and informal, with dogs, cats and chickens, and a continuous parade of children passing through,' she explains. 'The kitchen is in the middle of our house, and it's where we love

to come together as a family. Matthew is an extraordinary and energetic gardener. He produces cut flowers and vegetables on a regular basis – we can never keep up with his home-grown beans and courgettes.'

#### THE EMMA BRIDGEWATER PHILOSOPHY

'Do it once and don't change it; only use things you love; only buy things you really want; and always have a picture of Elvis in the kitchen.' ➤

## EMMA'S PICKS

*From the 2015 Christmas range*



#### ROSY RECEPTION

Pick a radio that will pretty up a dresser as well as give great sound  
Rose and Bee mini retro DAB/FM radio, £79.95, Emma Bridgewater



#### LAVISH LETTERING

Choose a dramatic centrepiece for the Christmas Day table  
Medium Black Toast Feasting platter, £59.95, Emma Bridgewater



#### CHEEKY CHAP

Feel Christmassy with this design featuring the nation's favourite bird  
Snowstorm Robin mug, £19.95, Emma Bridgewater



#### REACH FOR THE STARS

This blue-and-white china will bring sparkle to a festive feast  
Plate, from £12.95; baby mug, £13.95; Starry Skies range, Emma Bridgewater



#### SHELF LIFE

**The Kitchen Dresser**  
wallpaper has a  
country-kitchen feel.  
**The Dresser**  
wallpaper, £83  
per roll, Emma  
Bridgewater  
range, Sanderson

#### HEAVEN SCENT

'I love paperwhite narcissi – they brighten up a room on a grey day and make it smell completely gorgeous,' says Emma



#### SITTING PRETTY

**Pick a fruit pattern**  
Figs cushion in  
Rose Pink/Moss;  
Pomegranate  
cushion in Duck  
Egg; from £39.95  
each, Sanderson  
range, Emma  
Bridgewater

**ROCK'N'ROLL**  
**Emma's kitchen features**  
**a picture of Elvis**  
Elvis Presley 1956, from  
£21.99 for a 30cm x 41cm  
photographic print, Art.co.uk



## Emma's inspiration...



**GET TO KNOW  
HER SIGNATURE  
STYLE** From the  
very beginning,  
Emma knew she  
wanted to make

pottery that could be used and enjoyed every day. 'Matthew and I only design things we love and would like to own ourselves,' she says. 'Things that are beautiful to look at but also a pleasure to use, such as a lovely mug that feels just right in your hand, or a bowl with a playful message that makes you smile every time you eat from it.'

A lot of ideas for the Emma Bridgewater collections come from appreciating the simple pleasures of everyday life, such as bringing people together around the kitchen table. 'Our Marmalade pattern was inspired by a family tradition of stocking the

cupboards with home-made marmalade every year, and we made our deep pasta serving bowl after I struggled to find one big enough to feed a hungry family of six,' says Emma.

Growing up in a busy, bustling household as the eldest of eight children has been a big influence on Emma's life and her mother's kitchen dresser, which was laden with family treasures and mismatched mugs, plates and bowls, undoubtedly provided her with inspiration. 'When I was a child, our house and especially our kitchen was always more fun than other people's,' she says. 'It felt more welcoming and generous, and I have always wanted to reproduce my mother's trademark warmth and relaxed hospitality for my own family and friends to enjoy.'

#### HOME BREW

**A perfect gift for a winter  
wedding or a silver or  
gold anniversary**  
Mr & Mrs four cup teapot,  
£59.95, Black Toast range,  
Emma Bridgewater



FEATURE KAREN BRAY



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## The Great Interior Design Challenge

Foreword by Tom Dyckhoff

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# 3 FUN TRENDS FOR *Christmas*

Looking for a new decorating theme this year?  
Be inspired by these fresh festive looks

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**Sugar coated**  
Hang a few frosty decorations on the tree

Frosted glass bauble in Copper, £2, John Lewis



**Time to reflect**  
Mix it up with pretty textured decorations

Pink metallic bauble, £2.50, Next



## Fabulous flake

There's no such thing as too much sparkle  
Sequin detail snowflake, £5.95, Gisela Graham range, Selfridges



## Cracking time

No Christmas dining table is complete without crackers  
Silver snowflake crackers, £25 for 10, House of Fraser



**Glow on**  
Candlelight will create a magical atmosphere  
Decorative honeycomb glass candle holder, £7.99, The Christmas Boutique

## Frosted fairytale

Icy iridescence, hints of pale pink and a sprinkling of glitter will create a winter wonderland



**Welcome home**  
It'll twinkle beautifully in the winter sun

White sparkly wreath, £40, The Contemporary Home

**Pretty in pink**  
Wake up to a display fit for a princess  
7ft snowy Rainier spruce, £329; decorations, from a selection; all Wyevale Garden Centres



**Dainty deer**  
Buy a few to use as place settings

White glitter reindeer decoration, £2.50, BHS



**Top table**  
Use this sculptural decoration as a striking centrepiece

Silver calabash, £7.60, Adventino



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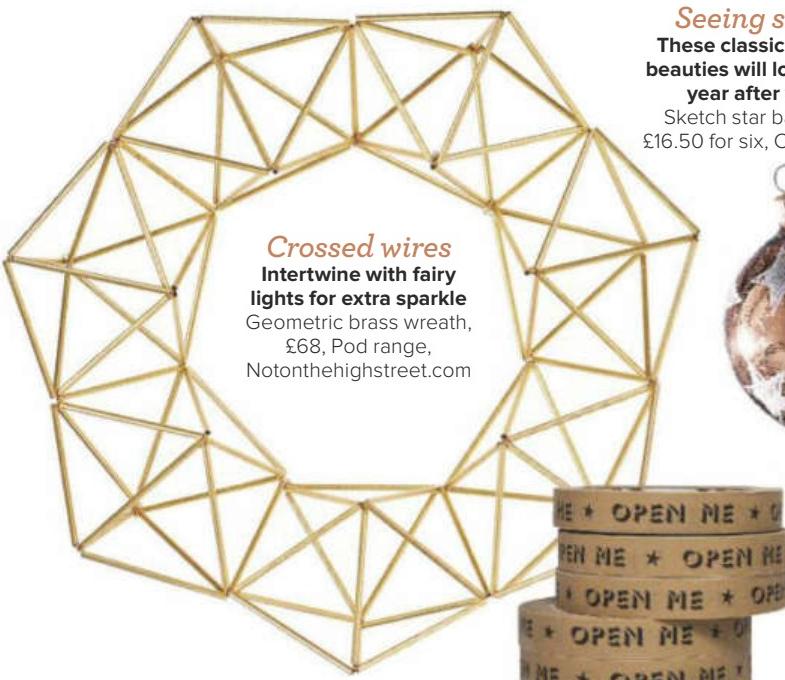
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These cool crackers are filled with eco gifts  
Chalkboard Christmas crackers, £35 for six, Scissor Monkeys



**Count down**  
Put small gifts, treats or little messages in each compartment  
Adventi perpetual Advent calendar, £160, Out There Interiors



**Crossed wires**  
Intertwine with fairy lights for extra sparkle  
Geometric brass wreath, £68, Pod range, Notonthehighstreet.com

**Leading lights**  
Powered by batteries, these can be strung up anywhere you want  
Copper string lights (L105cm), £16, Next

**Star quality**  
Give your tree a copper topper  
Industrial wire star tree topper, £5, Wilko



## Urban edge

Team pale wood with metallics, industrial materials and black and white accessories for a rough-luxe look

**Modern mood**  
Keep the look simple with metallic decorations and shades of grey  
Hanging decorations, from £3.25 each; cushions, from £45 each; all Bloomingville range, House Envy

**Monochrome magic**  
Fill with luxurious treats  
Antares star stocking, £60, Tori Murphy



**Seeing stars**  
These classic copper beauties will look good year after year  
Sketch star baubles, £16.50 for six, Cox & Cox

**Tempting tape**  
No need to tell us twice!  
Open Me tape, £6.95 for 50m, Marby and Elm

**Branch out**  
A minimalist take on a trad tree  
Arran large tree (H275cm), £90, Habitat

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# Be cosy.

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**Outside in**  
Decorate with natural materials  
Rope and foliage decoration, £2, George

**Hang it up**  
Share the love with this rustic heart wreath  
Pine cone wreath, £7, Wilko



**What a hoot**  
Kids will love this cute bauble  
Glass owl bauble, £2, Wilko



**Make some noise**  
Made from high-quality kraft paper  
Luxury midwinter forest crackers, £40 for six, Cox & Cox

**Warm woodland**

Go for a cosy, country-style theme with forest animals, felt decorations, foliage and rustic wood

**Light the way**  
The bark-effect finish adds an instant forest feel  
Heart tealight holder, £4, Tesco Direct



**Go nuts**  
Hang in clusters for the best effect  
Large glitter acorn, £8, House of Fraser



**Winter wonder**  
A pretty collectable to display each year  
Bird in glass bauble, £3.49, Wyevale Garden Centres



**Furry friend**  
What says 'festive woodland' more than a glittery squirrel?  
Squirrel ornament, £4.99, Dobbies Garden Centres



**Animal magic**  
Add a few forest critters to your scheme  
Cushions, from £10 each; stripe throw, £20; giftwrap, from £1; baubles, from £1 each; all George



**Tall and proud**  
Go all out with this impressive berry-covered tree  
7ft Baileys berry and cone tree, £180, John Lewis

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Great for neighbours, school teachers or work colleagues  
Monogrammed mugs, Anthropologie



**TAKE THE PLUNGE**  
Know a coffee snob? Gift them this and a bag of their favourite beans  
Copper cafetière, Habitat



**MADE FOR SHARING**  
A loved-up, sweet-toothed couple will be made up with this mini dipping set  
Fondant set for two, Next



**GOING FOR GOLD**  
These gold-rimmed plates are perfect for party nibbles or for hanging on the wall  
Gilded wordy side plates, West Elm

TIME TO  
DRINK CHAMPAGNE  
AND  
DANCE  
ON THE TABLE

£45

## IN THE FRAME

For the friend that needs no excuse to get the festive party started  
Framed print, The White Company

£30

**COCKTAIL HOUR**

**Help someone channel their inner bartender**  
Copper cocktail shaker and tool set,  
Casa Couture range, House of Fraser

£4

**TAKE NOTE**

**These cute, uplifting cards will brighten up anyone's day**  
Quote cards, Matalan

£39

**CHEESE COURSE**

**For those who like to entertain in style**  
Marble cheese board with  
four copper knives, Oliver Bonas

£18

**BURN BRIGHT**

**Fill a friend's home with the scent of patchouli, cinnamon, cedarwood and cloves**  
Birch & Brook candle, The British Library

£7.99

**MAGIC MOMENTS**

**Perfect for a dreamer who loves the enchantment of Christmas**  
Pink and gold cushion, H&M

£30  
For three**BLACK BEAUTIES**

**Know someone with a glam home? They'll love these decadent diffusers**  
Mini diffuser trio, Biba range, House of Fraser

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**Just the thing for storing pencils, jewellery, make-up or travel toiletries**  
Big Useful purse in Dotty Pug, Poppy Treffry

£32

**TWO TONE**

**Mixing luxe with industrial, this is a stylish gift for the design savvy**  
Concrete and gold drip vase, MiaFleur

**HOME MAKER**

**Ideal for an organised family member**  
Utility noticeboard (H51cm x W61cm x D6.5cm), Wilko

£25



#### GREEN FINGERS

A budding gardener or plant lover will appreciate this easy-to-use kit  
Succulent care kit, Etsy



#### INSPIRE AND ADMIRE

Send some positive vibes to your nearest and dearest  
Imagination print, The Calm Gallery



#### DO THE TWIST

Crafted from a single metal pipe, this will appeal to devotees of minimalist living  
Twist copper candlestick, Oliver Bonas



#### FANCY A TIPPLE?

They'll learn a new craft and get to sample the finished product  
Home-made gin kit, The Fowndry



#### HANKY PANKY

These whimsical hankies would make a smart accessory for any well-dressed gent  
Blown Away handkerchief set, Unique & Unity



#### FLOWER POWER

Keep delicate hands protected  
Blooming Lovely garden gloves, Caroline Gardner



£24.95

**STAG PARTY**  
A cute kit to create a fabric friend  
Stag head craft kit,  
The Makery range, Wild & Wolf



£28

**TIME FOR TEA**  
This teapot, cup and saucer combo would suit someone with traditional tendencies  
Woodland Rose tea for one, Cath Kidston



£49

**SEW PRETTY**  
Ideal for beginners and teenagers  
Mini sewing machine in Watermelon, John Lewis



£15

**MAKE DO AND MEND**

A keen crafter will put this sewing jar of ribbons, threads and pins to good use  
Cranberry sewing jar, Laura Ashley



£6.99

**TASTE OF ITALY**

When these sweet treats have gone, the tin will come in handy  
Amaretti biscuits, Dobbies Garden Centres



£6

**WRITER'S BLOCK**

Thank-you letters will seem like less of a chore with these pretty pencils  
Edelweiss pencil set, Accessorize



£24

**WARM WELCOME**

This would make a cheerful addition to the hallway of a dedicated host or hostess  
Brass word paperweight, West Elm



£49

**STACK IT UP**

Give a girlfriend with an eye for bling an excuse to go shopping  
Four-drawer jewellery box, Oliver Bonas

£9.99

**COLOUR CLASS**

Encourage someone with a busy job to de-stress and unwind  
Colouring book, Joy



£6

**HEAVEN SCENT**

Someone got the winter blues? Lift their spirits with this summery candle  
Candle, Leafy & Lovely range, Superdrug



£40

**PERFECT SERVE**

Ethically sourced for the eco aware  
Wooden serving board, Hampson Woods range, John Lewis



£35 for four

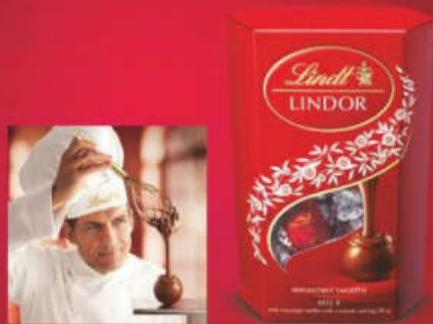
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Urbanites will love these skylines  
London plates set, Royal Doulton range, The National Gallery



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**For the one who values some sofa time**  
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Dark Maple, Bronte by Moon



£25

**TASTY TREATS**

**A fab selection of biscuits and cakes that's almost too good to give away**  
Christmas gift selection, Bettys



£8

**MAKING SHAPES**

**Children can create their own Christmas cards with these festive stamps**  
Stamp set, Paperchase



£19

**GAME ON**

**A humorous, modern take on draughts for kids and adults alike**  
Mesdames & Messieurs, Unique & Unity



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**LIFE OF PIE**

**Home cooks will be champing at the bit to fill these four dishes with gastro delights**  
Pie dishes gift set, Falcon Enamelware



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**MAKE A DATE**

**Help a busy socialite plan the year ahead**  
Alice in Wonderland calendar, Rifle Paper range, Northlight Homestore



£26

**RAISE A TOAST**

**Include ingredients to make mulled wine for a ready-to-use gift**  
Glass drinks dispenser, Next



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**FIT TO KNIT**

**Every young 'un knows knitting is back in**  
Hat knitting kit, Wool and the Gang range, John Lewis



£3.99

**BAH HUMBUG**

**Put a smile on the face of a Scrooge**  
Christmas treat sweets, Dobbies Garden Centres



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#### GARDENERS' WORLD

Featuring A-to-Z retro seed packets, this can would be useful for green-fingered folk

Roots &amp; Shoots watering can, Magpie



£15

#### SCREEN PLAY

Movie buffs can create a home cinema by projecting movies from a phone onto a wall

Smartphone projector, Sainsbury's

£20



#### MIDAS TOUCH

Fill with a favourite tipple

As Good as Gold hip flask,  
Ted Baker range, House of Fraser

£18

#### CARE BEAR

Little ones will love cuddling up to this soft, traditional teddy

Spencer bear, Marks &amp; Spencer



£12

#### COOKIE MONSTER

GBBO addicts can try their hand at baking with this retro-style kit

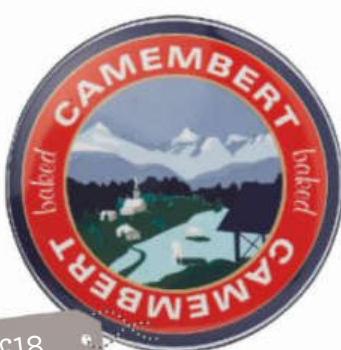
Cookie stamp kit, Mason Cash range, Very

£25

#### PICTURE THIS

Perfect for framing this year's special Christmas memories

Geo-print photo frame (4in x 6in), Paperchase



£18

#### SAY CHEESE!

This will melt the hearts of fromage fans who like theirs hot and gooey

Ceramic Camembert baker, John Lewis



£3

#### SWEET MUSIC

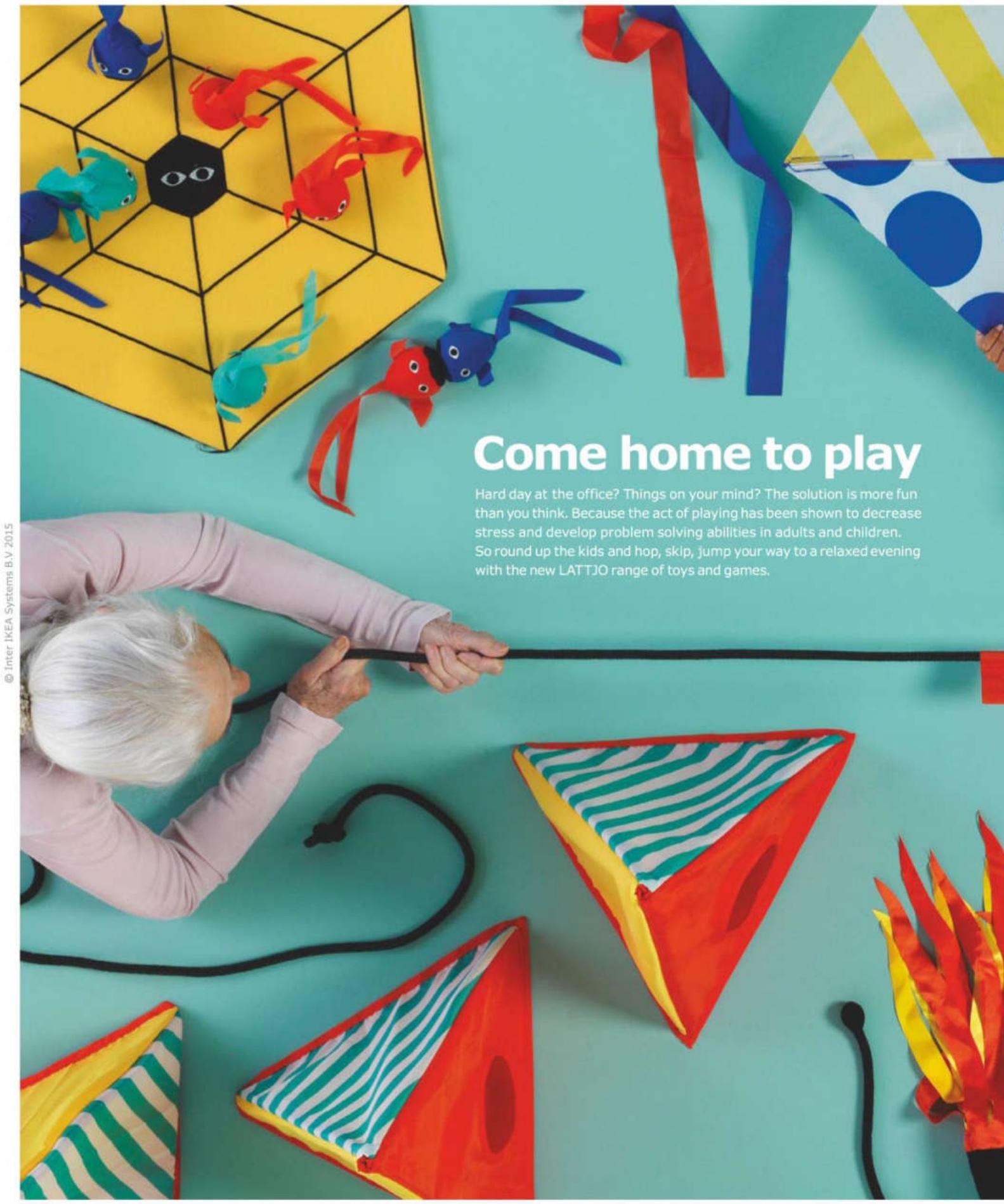
It wouldn't be Christmas without carols performed on repeat

Red harmonica, Dotcomgiftshop



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# 'Traditional style is so cosy during winter'

Sarah and Paul Norton have given their home a relaxed country look that's perfect for creating an enchanted feel at Christmas time

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



## 1 Living room

The couple knocked out a tiled fireplace and restored the original inglenook to give the living room inviting country character  
Buttoned ottoman, £425; tree decorations, from £1.50 each; all Sarah Norton Interiors

*The big*  
**CHANGE**

RENOVATING A GRADE-II LISTED COTTAGE, INCLUDING REPLACING THE KITCHEN, ADDING A BATHROOM AND REDECORATING THROUGHOUT





## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR      SPENT      NOW WORTH  
 £425,000      £91,000      £625,000



### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, 17th-century thatched cottage, near Andover, Hampshire. The owners bought it in November 2004.

### WHAT IT COST

Roof rethatching.....	£24,000
Exterior render and building work.....	£32,000
Kitchen.....	£10,000
Bathroom.....	£13,000
Studio.....	£12,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>£91,000</b>

### WHO LIVES HERE

Sarah and Paul Norton, with their children, Ella, 11, and Violet, seven. Sarah is an interior designer and Paul is a director at an IT firm.

### THE LOOK

Modern country, with a focus on textiles and accessories.

### LESSONS LEARNED

*“Project-managing the work myself meant I had first-hand knowledge of every element.”*

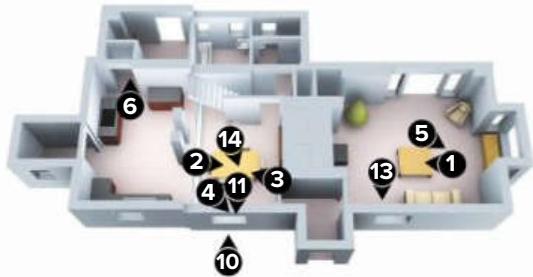
### FIRST FLOOR ▶

Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a bathroom



### ◀ GROUND FLOOR

The living room is to the right of the front door and the kitchen-diner is to the left. At the back of the house, there's a bathroom and a utility room





Get the  
**LOOK**  
PAGE 56

**② Kitchen-diner**

A cream scheme creates a calming mood. Sarah makes a beautiful fresh greenery garland for the inglenook every Christmas

For a similar candelabra, try the five-arm Carlisle pendant, from £167, Jim Lawrence



### ③ Kitchen-diner

'We had to design our kitchen round the ancient beams,' says Sarah. Oak flooring gives the space a warm feel. Wiltshire ladder-back chairs, £690 for six, The Cotswold Company

**S**arah and Paul Norton's Hampshire cottage is chocolate-box perfect now, but it took a lot of hard work to make it happen. 'It's one of the oldest houses in the village,' says Sarah. 'We could see it had potential as a family home, with a spacious kitchen and dining area, a good-sized living room and a beautiful garden, but we were in for a few surprises when it came to redecorating.'

The cottage is located in a rural hamlet near Andover. It had been a weekend bolthole for its former owner, and had suffered a series of botched repair jobs over the years, the worst of which was a layer of cement render that caused damp in the 17th-century walls. 'The building's original horsehair cob was so damp, much of it just fell away,' says Sarah.

The couple began the restoration process by employing a specialist builder to render the property inside and out with horsehair and lime. New hand-blown single-glazing was made to comply with the cottage's Grade-II →

### ④ Dining room

**Every year Sarah puts a Christmas display in the window that overlooks the village green**

Hand carved wooden snowflakes, £7.95 each; metal tealight, £7.50; all Sarah Norton Interiors



**5 Living room**

'The window bench is a great place to sit and read or watch the birds outside,' says Sarah

For a similar bench, try the Tetbury hall, £249, The Cotswold Company. Alpine bunting, £75; cushions, from £58 each; all Jan Constantine



'On Christmas morning, we join the rest of the village for a drink in the pub before eating lunch'



#### 6 Utility room

**Sarah has given the practical utility area a pretty look with a country-style storage bench and a matching wall shelf unit above it**

For a similar bench, try the Caldecote bench set, £525, The Cotswold Company. Twig heart, from £14.95, Sarah Norton Interiors

listed status. Other major work included laying oak flooring throughout the ground floor and installing a new bathroom inspired by a smart en suite Sarah and Paul had seen at a b&b.

The couple also replaced the dated kitchen. 'All the cabinets had to be made by hand because none of the walls are even,' says Sarah, who added personality to the space by hanging a floral wallpaper behind glass splashbacks.

Putting right the old decorating mistakes ate into the couple's budget, but it enabled interior designer Sarah to use her creative skills to the full. By decorating rooms in soft neutral shades and layering texture to add warmth, she has given her home a comfortable, contemporary look, while never straying too far away from its period roots. 'My secret is to produce moodboards,' she says. 'I spend time tearing images out of magazines and looking at paint colours and fabrics. It helps you to plan your look and to keep to your budget.'

Customisation is another one of Sarah's decorating tricks – she has altered many pieces



to create something unique. 'I chose an oak cabinet for the bathroom, but I didn't like its handles, so I swapped them for hand-crafted ones from a specialist maker,' she says. 'It's not a complicated thing to do, but it can make all the difference when you're trying to bring a sense of individuality to your home.'

A neutral colour scheme throughout the house sets a calm mood. 'I know from other projects I've done that the best way to create harmony is to use a similar palette of colours and to ensure there are no harsh distinctions between rooms,' says Sarah. 'A harmonious feeling is important in a house like this with so many different levels and nooks and crannies.'

Sarah also works as a florist, so as Christmas approaches, she is busy creating garlands of fresh and silk flowers, and sumptuous festive displays. In her own home, every room is adorned with pretty candle arrangements and hand-made decorations.

The advantage of the cottage's relaxed colour palette and simple style means it can →

'We could see it had potential as a family home, but we were in for a few surprises when it came to redecorating'



### 7 Main bedroom

A large seasonal garland adorns the French-style bed. 'I love to bring Christmas into every room,' says Sarah King-size bed, £1,075; bedside table, £225; both Sarah Norton Interiors. For a similar box, try the blue antique trunk, £795, Orchid Furniture

### 8 Main bedroom

Soft blue walls create a tranquil mood. 'I absolutely love this colour – it's perfect for a bedroom,' says Sarah Dressing table, £565; mirror, £150; stool, £295; all Sarah Norton Interiors. Walls painted in Pale Powder Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

*3 of the best EMBROIDERED BUYS*

**Stars of wonder**  
Hang these Scandi-style stars on the tree  
Merry & Bright embroidered star decorations, Wilko  
£1.50 each

**Chalet chic**  
Cosy up a bed with this wintry mountain scene  
Alpine Chalet cushion, Jan Constantine  
£108

**Frosty feeling**  
Give the dining table a festive flourish  
Christmas table runner, Debenhams  
£18





'A harmonious feeling is important in a house like this with so many different levels and nooks and crannies'

#### ❾ *Violet's bedroom*

Sarah bought the bed and cupboard from a company that specialises in antique French furniture and had them painted in a soft grey. Quilt, from £235; duck-egg bird lampshade, £34; both Susie Watson Designs



#### ❿ *Dining room*

One of Sarah's favourite Christmas moments is putting the finishing touches to her dining-room window display. Glass domes, from £34 each, Sarah Norton Interiors. For a similar table lamp, try the Lyndhurst, £65, Laura Ashley

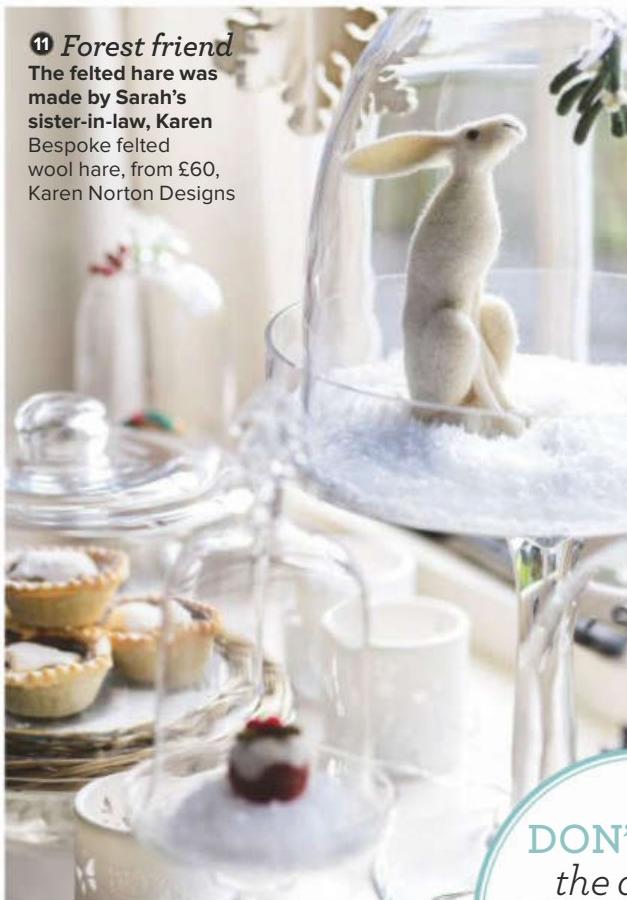
be easily transformed to celebrate the festive season. Sarah sets the mood using wreaths, garlands and baubles, which she decorates by hand. 'I paint them so they're all unique and, after producing them all year round, I love finally seeing them up at Christmas,' she says.

Sarah's seasonal display in the dining-room window has become something of a village institution. 'I'm known locally for having a stall of decorations at the Christmas fair, so people will often come and have a peek in the window to see what's going to be on offer,' she says. 'I love people looking at my window display, but I do draw the line if we're all sitting here eating Sunday lunch!'

When Sarah has completed her final Christmas fair and dispatched all of her customers' orders, it's time for the family to enjoy a few yuletide traditions. 'The girls and I love to dress the tree, and on Christmas Eve, Paul bakes mince pies,' she says. 'Then, on Christmas morning, we join the rest of the village for a drink in the pub before eating lunch and finally unwrapping our presents.'

**11 Forest friend**

The felted hare was made by Sarah's sister-in-law, Karen. Bespoke felted wool hare, from £60, Karen Norton Designs

**12 Soft touch**

Bold embroidered cushions add a festive touch to Sarah's bedroom. Cushions, from £55 each, Jan Constantine

DON'T MISS  
the details

Sarah creates a welcoming feel at Christmas time with soft textures and natural foliage

**13 Berry display**

Candy canes and bells help to make a cheerful seasonal display. Bells, £7.50 for 12, Gisela Graham range, The Contemporary Home

**14 Centrepiece**

Sarah made this candle garland using silk hydrangeas, mistletoe and dried limes. Garland, from £34.95, Sarah Norton Interiors

# Get Sarah's look

Give a country kitchen-diner some festive touches, inspired by the woods in winter

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## KITCHEN-DINER



Greenery and a pale blue table setting keep the look fresh



## ASK SARAH

### ■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'The view of the garden from the house, especially from the living room – even in winter, it's really beautiful.'

### ■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOME BUY AND WHY?

'The ottoman in the living room, because it's practical and beautiful. So many friends asked me to get one for them that I ended up selling them.'

### ■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE INTERIORS SHOP?

'The place I return to again and again, online and physically, is Baileys in Herefordshire. It sells vintage, country-style pieces and I love the way that the shop is laid out in different rooms.'

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE



### Country cream

Create a relaxed vibe with these painted rush-seat dining chairs  
Rush seat chairs, Wiltshire range,  
The Cotswold Company



### Elegant curves

Hang this over a table to give the dining area a focal point  
Tulip pendant light in old ivory,  
Jim Lawrence

*Cracking company*  
Add some snap and sparkle at Christmas lunch  
Luxury silver crackers, Sainsbury's

£10 for six



£13 for four

*Animal magic*  
Have a white Christmas whatever the weather

Winter Woodland napkins, Sophie Allport

£799

### Extra settings

This sturdy pine table extends to seat eight  
Halo Harvard extending French pastry table (H76.5cm x W90cm x L198cm), John Lewis



### Faux fir

Drape a garland along a banister or mantelpiece  
Christmas garland with cones and berries (L180cm), Very

**new**



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YOU COULD WISH FOR**

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# 'We had to update it inside and out'

Tackling a big renovation? Take some tips from the Eleys, who turned a dark, dated house into a lovely, bright home

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Get the  
**LOOK**  
PAGE 68

**1 Living room**

Clean white walls and floorboards, and furniture in pale tones give this room a light and airy feel. The coffee table is made from an old pallet

For similar pallets, try the very heavy duty pallets, from £4.50 each, PH Pallets. Elliott Grande sofa, £869, Made.com

BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE

*The big*  
**CHANGE**

REPLUMBING, REWIRING,  
AND DECORATING  
THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE,  
USING NEUTRAL TONES  
TO CREATE A FRESH  
BACKDROP





**② Kitchen-diner**

Painting the beams and floor white has made the room seem bigger, while white tiles with grey grout add an industrial touch. Metro white tiles, £19.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For similar chairs, try the Xavier P, £79.99 each, Lakeland Furniture.



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

## BOUGHT FOR

£380,000

## SPENT

£21,500

## NOW WORTH

£620,000

**THE PROPERTY**

A detached, three-bedroom, 1800s weatherboard house in Rye, East Sussex, bought in 2012.

**WHO LIVES HERE**

Sue and Jonathan Eley, with their children, Sam, 13, and Hope, 18. Sue is a researcher and Jonathan is a recruitment consultant.

**WHAT IT COST**

Roof and exterior.....	£11,000
Kitchen.....	£5,000
Bath and shower fittings.....	£250
Flooring.....	£2,000
Decorating.....	£250
Furniture and fittings.....	£3,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£21,500</b>

**THE LOOK**

Pared-back coastal, with industrial-style accessories.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

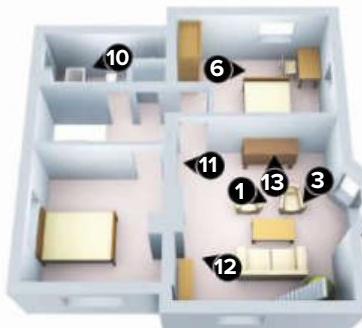
*“Shopping around online saved us paying silly prices.”*

**TOP FLOOR ▶**

A ladder in the living room leads to a small room that was originally used as a lookout by coastguards

**◀ FIRST FLOOR**

There's a living room, two bedrooms and a bathroom on this floor

**GROUND FLOOR ▶**

The kitchen-diner leads through to a bedroom. Off the hallway, there's a downstairs loo and a den, which opens onto a conservatory



'We painted every surface white to help reflect as much light as possible'

**S**ue and Jonathan Eley hadn't planned on buying a second home, but when Jonathan was browsing through the Sunday property supplements one day in 2012, he spotted an unusual house and showed it to his wife. 'Let's buy it,' she said jokingly. They were intrigued and not long after, on a dark winter's day, they drove down to Rye Harbour in East Sussex to take a look at it.

Steeped in history, the Watch House on the River Rother overlooks a salt marsh and nature reserve. It was built in around 1835 by The Admiralty as a customs house to collect tax from ships entering the port of Rye, and as a lookout for coastguards spotting smugglers.

The couple loved it instantly. 'We were like kids at Christmas,' says Jonathan. 'I suppose maybe subconsciously we were looking for

a holiday home, even though we weren't registered with any agents. It was a bit of a stretch, but we decided to put in an offer and, if it wasn't accepted, just say, "Oh well, it wasn't meant to be".' To the couple's delight, the vendor agreed and by March they were the owners of a 200-year-old Grade-II-listed property in need of considerable upgrading.

They started with the exterior and, with Jonathan acting as project manager, working closely with the planning officer and local craftsmen, they modified the chimney stack, repaired the flues, restored the brickwork and replaced the roof. The house also needed a new boiler and new plumbing, drains and electrics. 'We had to repair all the things you don't see that cost a lot of money,' says Jonathan.

The kitchen was rustic in style, with red terracotta floor tiles, low ceilings and black ➤

### ③ Living room

A pallet coffee table and a barn star give the room rustic style, while floor cushions make great extra seats for guests

For a similar high-pile rug, try the Vitten, from £80, Ikea. For similar lanterns, try the classic rectangular, from £30 each, John Lewis

### ④ Kitchen

The unusual tap was Sue's idea – she asked a handyman to make one out of copper tubes

For a similar tap, try the Monarch slim copper, £219, Alveus range, Olif



**3 of the best RUSTIC BUYS**

**£28**

**From the farm**  
Add relaxed character  
with a barn star  
Small Amish barn star,  
Lovestruck Interiors

**£15**

**First Noel**  
Stand this on  
the mantel for  
a festive touch  
Noel sign, BHS

**£16.95  
each**

**Go Dutch**  
Pop a nightlight  
inside these  
tall houses  
Amsterdam  
House tealight  
holders,  
Dotcomgiftshop





beams that made the room rather dark – it was desperately in need of a brighter look. Local carpenter and builder Paul Haver fitted kitchen units with oak worktops and laid new floorboards. The couple kept a range cooker, but removed a large black cooker hood. Some outdated mosaic splashbacks were replaced with simple, white, metro-style tiles. ‘We painted every surface white to help reflect as much light as possible,’ says Sue.

A new wooden floor in the kitchen was extended into the ground-floor bedroom, and the shower room on the ground floor was remodelled by moving a wall, turning it into a small cloakroom. This helped enlarge the hallway at the bottom of the stairs, freeing up space for a large antique linen press.

Upstairs, in the living room, the couple removed pine tongue-and-groove panelling

and a reproduction Victorian mantelpiece. Laminate flooring was ripped up to reveal original boards, and the whole room was then painted white. The bathroom was also revamped – the Eleys brought in Tollets, their local builders, for the work, and the walls were panelled with salvaged floorboards and cladding to cover up ugly pipework.

As the house took shape, Sue and Jonathan began looking for furniture. ‘We had a good idea of what we wanted,’ says Sue. ‘The furniture here is nothing like our furniture at the house in London, which is quite colourful.’

They bought some new pieces, as well as some eBay buys and some from local antiques and junk shops. Jonathan made a few inventive items of furniture that cost next to nothing, such as the platform for their bed and the coffee table in the living room, which he ➤

### ➊ Hope's bedroom

#### A patterned bedspread adds a welcoming feel

For a similar quilt, try the Viana, from £45, Urbanara. For a similar stool cover, try the sheepskin rug, from £34.99, Dunelm

### ➋ Staircase

#### The stencilled numbers on the stairs were inspired by the registration codes on the fishing boats in Rye harbour

For a similar stencil, try the Numbers A4, £10.95, Dovetails Vintage



3



'We had to repair all the things you don't see that cost a lot of money'

## 9 Bedroom

Industrial-style lamps and old apple crates tie in with the eclectic look throughout the house

Apple crate, from £5, Vintage Apple Crates. Cow skin rug, £265, Graham and Green



## 10 Bathroom

A space-saving slipper bath sits neatly along the width of this small room

For a similar bath, try the Winchester slipper bath, £279, VictoriaPlum.com



built using old timber pallets. 'They cost just a fiver each from a building site,' he says. 'I painted them white to match the décor, then added metal castors to the base.'

The couple still have more plans for the house. A modern conservatory at the side of the property is going to be replaced, but Listed Planning Consent will be needed. Sue is more than halfway through an ambitious redesign of the garden - so far she has turned an old pond into a seating area. On starry nights, the family likes to wrap up in blankets and gather round the fire pit to star gaze and take in the sea air.

The Eleys love coming to their peaceful and quiet seaside haven, and at Christmas the atmosphere here is very traditional. 'I am just a big kid at heart and I love Christmas,' says Jonathan. 'I like to wow Sue and the kids - I come down on my own and put up the tree and all the decorations before they get here. Then we do the big Christmas dinner with a turkey bought from a local farm and we have friends to stay. Spending Christmas together is important to us, wherever we are.'

**11 By the sea**

An old life belt propped against a wall is a nautical-style feature  
For a similar life ring, try the Solas 4.3kg, £64, Seamount Nunn

**13 Sideboard**

Distressed-effect storage gives a nod to weatherbeaten wood  
For a similar globe, try the Bradley blue desktop, £79.95, Justglobes.co.uk

**DON'T MISS  
the details**

Maritime accessories and rustic surfaces create a laid-back, coastal-inspired theme

**12 Living room**

Logs for the fire are stored under a rustic-style bench  
For a similar bench, try the Mango, £275, French Connection

**14 Hallway**

Glass and rope details add to the seaside look  
Sailing print (unframed), from £14.95, King & McGaw. For a similar lamp, try the Batela, £61.99, Wayfair





# Get Sue's look

Retro touches bring a funky edge to this country living room

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## IDEAL

### Café chic

Add some steel  
Tolix repro chair in white, Industrial Vintage range, The Orchard Home and Gifts

£50



£146

*In the details*  
Choose industrial-look lighting with a striped cord and a powder-coated finish

Ranarp floor lamp in off-white, Ikea



### Bench mark

Fit extra people round the table  
Painted cross leg dining bench (H46cm x W175cm x D34cm), Oxford range, The Cotswold Company

£199

## GREAT DEAL

### Vintage vibe

A cream finish softens the look of this metal chair  
Urban Bistro chair in cream, Dunelm

£14.99



£39.99

*Flexible friend*  
Pick a floor lamp with a bendy neck for adjustability  
Dent desk style floor lamp in cream, ColourMatch range, Argos



### Top trestle

Introduce a rustic touch  
Table in white and bleached pine (H45cm x W110cm x D60cm), Portobello range, Tesco Direct

£99



### Accent stripe

For a low-key festive feel, add a dash of red  
Red stripe linen cushion, Coastal Home

*Woodland charm*  
Dot these lanterns around the room for a magical effect

Small bark tealight holder, House of Fraser

£12

*Seeing stars*  
Bring the outdoors in with a star buy in silver birch  
Bark lantern with star cutout, Dobbies

£7.99



*French linen*  
Faded printing gives a naturally aged effect  
Le Jardin Botanique cushion, Dotcomgiftshop

£12.95



### Classic choice

Go for an elegant sofa shape  
Snowdrop three-seater in Herringbone house linen cotton (H86cm x W215cm x D63cm), Sofa.com

£1,240



### Stay neutral

An easy-to-live-with design that will work in any setting  
Orson three-seater in Biscuit Beige (H80cm x W200cm x D98cm), Made.com

£699

What you  
smell.

What your  
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

# 'We've created a blissful sanctuary'

Follow the Wilsons' lead and set key statement pieces against a neutral background for quiet glamour

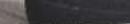
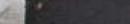
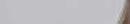
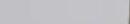
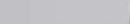
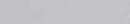
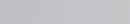
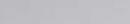
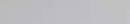
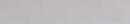
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## *The big* **CHANGE**

ADDING UNDERSTATED  
LUXURY TO A MODERN  
TOWN HOUSE USING  
TEXTURE, PATTERN AND  
A MUTED COLOUR  
PALETTE



BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE





Get the  
**LOOK**  
PAGE 80

**1 Living room**

**Textured details and modern accessories add subtle luxury to the elegant scheme**

Kasha corner sofa, £2,300, Habitat. For a similar table lamp, try the grey hare lamp, £85, Abigail Ahern range, Debenhams



'Everything in our home has a subtle, muted finish that we can liven up at Christmas'

## ② Dining room

Hanging stars and crystals add a festive feel

For a similar paint, try the Pelt Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5lt, Farrow & Ball. For a similar dining table and chairs, try the Oregon table with four Boise chairs, £750, Sterling Furniture



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£435,000	£15,000	£495,000

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom town house in Edinburgh, built in 2008. The owners bought it in May 2012.

### WHAT IT COST

Decorating.....	£3,500
Furniture.....	£6,000
Carpets.....	£4,000
Furnishings and accessories.....	£1,500
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£15,000</b>

### WHO LIVES HERE

Jennifer Wilson and her husband James. Jennifer owns an online homeware boutique and James works in advertising.

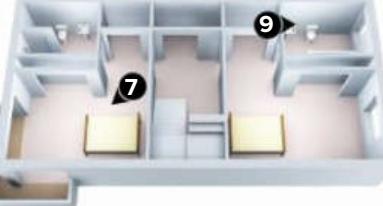
### THE LOOK

Smart, yet simple, with luxurious finishes and unique wallpapers for understated elegance.

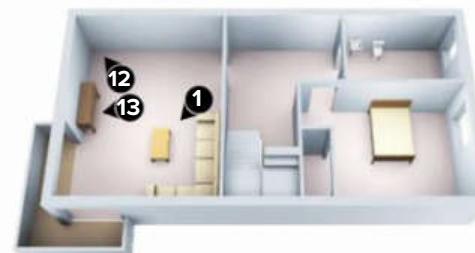


### LESSONS LEARNED

*“The pale tiled flooring downstairs marks so easily. I'd choose something more forgiving next time.”*



**SECOND FLOOR ▶**  
There are two guest bedrooms, both with en suites



**◀ FIRST FLOOR**  
The living room is to the left of the stairs and Jennifer's office and a bathroom are on the right

**GROUND FLOOR ▶**  
There's a dining room at the front of the house and a kitchen-diner and a garden room at the back





**W**hen Jennifer and James Wilson decided to view a three-storey town house in a new development near their home in Edinburgh,

it was purely on a whim. ‘We were living in a large Georgian apartment at the time, which we loved, but the minute we saw this development, we fell for it,’ says Jennifer. ‘Our apartment needed crucial repairs and we knew we’d have to undertake the works or move, so we decided it was time to take the plunge.’ However, the couple didn’t want to buy the house they’d viewed. Instead, they wanted one of the four-storey properties, which came with a roof terrace, but none of those were for sale.

Undeterred, Jennifer wrote to the owners of all the four-storey houses with a proposition to buy, and was thrilled when three of them

responded positively. ‘It just shows that it’s a very worthwhile exercise if you want a specific property in a particular street,’ she says.

The house Jennifer and James finally chose was an end-of-terrace one, which had been extended by the previous owners to create a garden room, and with its additional windows in the rear wall, was by far the lightest and most spacious of the three houses.

It was a blank canvas of magnolia walls and cream carpets as the previous owners, who had visited only at weekends, had never had the chance to put their own stamp on the house. Jennifer and James set about doing this as soon as they moved in. ‘We know what we want when it comes to interiors and would never live in a house for a year or so before decorating,’ says Jennifer. ‘We got going immediately’

Consequently, the look was pulled together swiftly, with the couple speedily injecting ➔

### ③ Kitchen

**The high-gloss taupe units suit the couple’s understated look perfectly. They have teamed them with soft grey furniture**

For a similar kitchen, try the Raffello in cream, from £62 for a W600mm door, B&Q. For similar bar stools, try the Cornell, £79.99 each, Atlantic Shopping



#### 4 Garden room

'It's so cheerful in here, even on a gloomy day,' says Jennifer. The small sofa and chairs are ideal for the space and create a comfortable place to relax. Limoges two seater sofa, £799; for similar armchairs, try the Cross base, £399 each; all Dwell. Penguin cushions, £32 each, Skandivis

#### 5 Kitchen

Pale ceramic floor tiles complement the units and create a fresh, light feel. The look is sleek and uncluttered thanks to ample storage space. For similar floor tiles, try the Umbria, £10 per sq m, B&Q. Bubbly Belles oven glove, £18, Urban Cuckoo



**'Textured, rough-luxe wallpapers are a great way to add interest'**

#### 6 Hallway

**Eye-catching accessories and a quirky brick-effect wallpaper make a feature of the hallway**

For similar wallpaper, try the Muriva, £14.99 per roll, Gowallpaper. Newton sideboard, £599, Dwell. Wooden stag head, £28, Urban Cuckoo

style and character into the house with chic decorative choices. 'We relied on texture and pattern, rather than colour, to shape the look,' says Jennifer. 'I love monochrome finishes and find details, such as textured, rough-luxe wallpapers, are a great way to add interest.'

There's a subtle East-meets-West theme throughout the house, too – a result of Jennifer and James's love of travel. 'We wanted to create a soothing refuge, hence the exotic Zen touches that bring a sense of serenity,' says Jennifer.

As with many contemporary builds, the living room is on the first floor. It's a peaceful sanctuary, decorated in pale tones and sensual fabrics. 'We retreat here to relax in the evenings and watch TV,' says Jennifer.

The ground floor houses a guest bedroom and the kitchen, plus a dining room that has

dark purple walls with shimmering silver-grey carpet, and has curtains and blinds in a deep shade of aubergine. Upstairs, there are two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and a balcony, and the top floor comprises the main bedroom and en suite, and the roof terrace.

The couple particularly enjoy their home's hassle-free outdoor spaces. Two south-facing balconies, a roof terrace and a patio are all low maintenance and provide lovely views of Edinburgh. 'With little need to do any actual gardening, they're ideal for me,' says Jennifer. 'We've got some topiary on the roof terrace and a few palms in planters, but that's the extent of our gardening expertise.'

The couple have appreciated being able to create a new home without messy and time-consuming structural work. 'It's all ➔





**3 of the best  
SILVER DECORATIONS**

**Twinkle twinkle**  
Pop a tealight inside  
and watch it sparkle

Mercury jam jar tealight  
holder, The White Company

£10

**Let it snow**  
Shake it up to make  
a snowy scene

Silver reindeer snow  
globe, Debenhams

£22

**Winter wonderland**  
Hang these on the tree  
for added glamour

Glass Christmas tree hanging  
decorations, George

From £4 each

**7 Guest bedroom**  
A soothing palette of soft  
mauvés and luxurious  
bed linen make this  
a sumptuous room  
for overnight guests

For similar wallpaper, try  
the Button Back, £70 per  
roll, Rockett St George.  
For a similar quilt, try the  
geometric pattern, from  
£99.99, Zara Home

### 8 Main bedroom

**Textured wallpaper and lustrous surfaces add personality to the room**

For similar wallpaper, try the textured vinyl, £8 per roll, Wilko. Bourgie lamps, £211 each, Kartell range, Nest.co.uk. For a similar side table, try the metal, £295, Graham and Green



**'We relied on texture and pattern, rather than colour, to shape the overall look'**

been so simple, and the fact that there was no building work to do enabled us to focus on the finishing touches, which is the fun part,' says Jennifer. 'We could concentrate on things like the quality of the finishes, the solid hardwood doors, the bathrooms and the fitted cupboards, all of which are beautifully made. It has been a pleasure to personalise the house.'

Jennifer's online business Urban Cuckoo ([urbancuckoo.co.uk](http://urbancuckoo.co.uk)) specialises in the quirky, contemporary style that she and James love. At Christmas they have their pick of seasonal decorations, which look great against the luxurious wallpapers and carefully selected fabrics in the house. 'Everything in our home has a subtle, muted finish that we can liven up at Christmas with frosted, glittery decorations for festive sparkle,' says Jennifer.

Christmas Day is busy in the Wilson house, with visits from both sides of their extended family, lots of seasonal good cheer and piles of presents to unwrap. 'We have everyone around for a party on the day,' says Jennifer. 'We do get a bit carried away, but it's nice to celebrate.' **TH**

### 9 Bathroom

**Jennifer and James went for sleek, contemporary sanitaryware to create a calming, spa-like feel**

For similar floor tiles, try the Philana (600mm x 300mm), £53.99 for six, Homebase



**10 Hallway**

An elegant glass tree light looks chic and contemporary

For a similar clear tree, try the glass jar, £40, Cox & Cox

**11 Dining table**

A trio of pretty tealight holders add a warm evening glow

For similar tealight holders, try the rustic heart, £6.95 each, Tesco Direct

### DON'T MISS the details

Opt for neutral decorations in metal, wood and glass to add a stylish festive feel to your home

**12 Clear sign**

Glass accessories reflect light around the room and add seasonal sparkle

For similar candlesticks, try the tall chunky glass, £22.50 each, Greige

**13 Sideboard**

Sweet little houses and hessian sacks give a homespun feel

Dutch houses, £12 for three, George.

Santa sacks, from £8 each, Urban Cuckoo



# Get Jennifer's look

Mix neutrals with glass and metallics for a cool, calm scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## IDEAL



£55

*Tiers of joy*  
Create an ambient glow with this china-shell light  
Pembroke pendant (diameter 34cm), Original BTC

£789



£10.50  
for three

£43  
per roll

*Retro glow*  
Add sparkle with vintage-look glass  
Mercury trio candle votives, Within

*Deco detail*  
Introduce gorgeous understated glamour into a plain scheme  
Deco wallpaper in Concrete and Silver, Arkona collection, Harlequin

## Well cornered

Zone your living space and create a relaxed area for chilling out  
Kasha right-arm corner sofa in grey fabric (H67cm x W279cm x D208cm), Habitat

£1,700

£399

*Space saver*  
Choose a flexible arrangement  
Jacque extending clear glass coffee table (H42cm x W80 120cm x D80cm), Dwell

## GREAT DEAL

*New leaf*  
Add texture and sculptural detail  
Silvia shade in white (diameter 45cm),  
Vita Lighting range, Amara

£19



£55

*Bunny beauty*  
Go soft with a square watercolour-print cushion  
Watercolour Bunny cushion in Duck Egg, M&Co

£1  
each

£28  
per roll



*Little gems*  
These frosted glass votives come with added bling  
Diamanté tealights, Poundland

## Right angle

Combine several sections into an L, or use them separately to suit your space  
Söderhamn corner sofa in Teno light grey (H83cm x W198cm x D291cm), Ikea

£1,335

£49.99

*Clear score*  
Add a sleek, modern touch  
Hygna Matrix coffee table in clear glass (H45cm x W100cm x D50cm), Argos



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**DeLonghi**

Better Everyday



# 'I used the colours of nature'

Look to your home's façade and surroundings for decorating inspiration, like Lesley and Fredrik Pennington did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## *The big* **CHANGE**

FURNISHING A RESTORED  
TWENTIES HOUSE IN  
SWEDEN TO CREATE A  
LIGHT AND INVITING  
FAMILY HOME



**① Living room**

A fresh white palette makes the most of the natural light. The red accents were inspired by the property's roof tiles

For a similar artwork, try the 12067686A, from £48.99, Art.co.uk. Arco lamp, £1,463, Flos range, Heal's. Falkland pendant, £171, Made in Design

BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE

## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£825,000	£15,000	£975,000

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached house, built in 1926, in a seaside suburb of Stockholm, Sweden. The owners bought it in October 2012.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Lesley Pennington and her husband Fredrik, with Fredrik's twin sons, Björn and Emil, 21, and the couple's daughter, Zoe, 13. Lesley is the founder and chief executive officer of a textiles company, and Fredrik works in marketing.

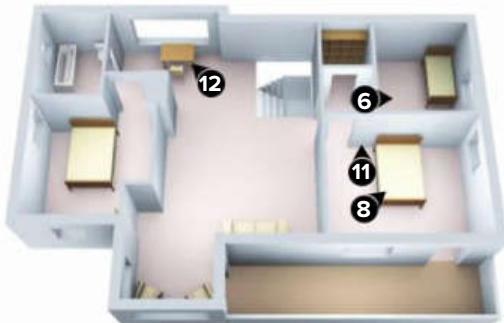
### THE LOOK

Stylish Scandi comfort, with a mixture of antiques and mid-century classics, set against bleached timber floors, rustic wood cladding and a white-and-pale-grey scheme.



### LESSONS LEARNED

**“Pick out a limited palette of colours and use repeatedly. In our house, the strongest threads are red and green.”**



◀ FIRST FLOOR  
Stairs lead up to a family room, the main bedroom and a bathroom. There are also two more bedrooms and a storage room

### GROUND FLOOR ▶

A large open-plan kitchen-diner and living room takes up more than half of the ground floor.

Down the hall, there's a guest room and a bathroom



‘I wanted to bring the colours of nature and of the building inside the house, which is why there are threads of red and green in every room’



## 2 Dining room

Lesley wanted a round table to encourage conversation among her family, and chose a new white laminate version of a Sixties design. Super-Elliptical table, from £1,650, Fritz Hansen range, Aram. Eames DSR chairs, £225 each, Vitra range, John Lewis. Soomkai 60 pendant, £104, Watt&Veke



## 3 of the best FESTIVE SCANDI BUYS

### Super stars

Create a garland with these purse-friendly decs

Large paper stars,  
Poundland



### House warmer

Pop a tealight inside for a cosy Christmas glow

Red house lantern (H25cm),  
The Contemporary Home



### Red-nosed reindeer

Stand this cheery chap on a shelf or mantel  
Large reindeer (H56cm), The Scandinavian Shop

**A**t Christmas time, Lesley Pennington's home glows with a welcoming spirit. Lesley is a Canadian who, 20 years ago, moved from the United States to be with her Swedish husband Fredrik, and she loves the Scandinavian way of doing things. 'On Christmas Eve, my family comes over for a traditional Swedish smörgåsbord of herring, meatballs and salads, and to open presents,' says Lesley. 'Later on in the holiday, I'll cook up a Canadian feast - turkey, stuffing, mash - which my two stepsons, Björn and Emil, and our daughter, Zoe, enjoy just as much. 'Sweden is very dark in the winter, especially in November and December, so Christmas is

something you can focus on,' says Lesley. 'Swedes celebrate for the whole month of December - it could be eating gingerbread cookies with friends, baking cakes at the weekends or lighting Advent candles. It takes the attention away from the darkness.'

Lesley trained as a graphic designer, but 10 years ago she channelled her love of interiors into home textiles. She founded Bemz (bemz.com/en-gb), an online store that supplies loose covers for Ikea sofas to customers around the world. After two decades immersed in the simplicity of Swedish home style, and with her evident love of beautiful design, it's no surprise that her home is so easy on the eye. 'I have a very personal approach to décor - I like to mix up antiques with mid-century pieces and →

### 3 Kitchen

The previous owners painted the kitchen's wooden cabinets pale grey to add a sense of Swedish country style  
For similar units, try the Metod/Förvara, from £64 for a W600mm unit, Ikea

### 4 Living room

Lesley bought the leather chair for £200 from online auction house and emporium Bukowski Auktioner  
For a similar chair, try the Knoll Studio lounge chair, £615, K2 Space



*'I wanted to do something creative and personal, and to create a cocoon for my family'*

**'I love using interesting textiles – redecorating with cushions, curtains, rugs and throws is a great way to change things without having to invest in new furniture'**



modern Scandinavian design,' she says. 'I love using interesting textiles, too – redecorating with cushions, curtains, rugs and throws is a great way to change things without having to invest in new furniture.'

For Lesley and Fredrik, coming across their detached, early 20th-century house in the paper one Saturday three years ago was a lucky find. 'We'd been looking to move for a while,' explains Lesley. 'Our children were growing up and we needed a different kind of home to accommodate our family. As I flicked through the property pages, I spotted this 1926 house in a seaside suburb of Stockholm, a 20-minute train journey from the city. It wasn't an area that we'd been considering, but I liked the look of it immediately and went to view it that day.'

When she arrived, the house was crowded with other eager homebuyers. The appeal was

clear – the owners had restored their home to a very high standard and little needed doing, not even painting. Moving in would simply be a matter of furnishing the rooms. 'They had paid a lot of attention to the period details, such as the bleached pinewood floors and the rustic wood cladding on the walls,' says Lesley. 'The house had been loved and cared for, it wasn't sterile, and I put in an offer there and then.'

The family moved into their new home three months later, in December 2012, and over the next year, Lesley created a look that is elegant, yet homely. 'I wanted to do something as creative and personal as the previous owners had, to create a cocoon for my family,' she says. She took her furnishing inspiration from the exterior of the house and its seaside surroundings – the red tiles of the roof, the grey of the wood cladding, the green of the trees, ➔

### 5 Guest bedroom

Large windows allow lots of daylight into the first-floor guest bedroom. Checked fabrics and red accents make it homely  
Ektorp Jennylund armchair, from £130, IKEA; covered in Loose Fit Country cover in Absolute White pure washed linen, £239, Bemz



### 6 Zoe's bedroom

A vintage bedspread found at a flea market gives this room a homespun look, while colourful accessories add a fun feel

For a similar throw, try the Snowflake, £69, John Lewis

### 7 Bathroom

The wood-panelled bathroom on the first floor is tiled in varieties of local stone quarried on the island of Gotland. For a similar tiles, try the Belgravia Travertine Field, £23 per sq m, Bathstore



*Get the  
LOOK  
PAGE 92*



### 8 Main bedroom

The white backdrop is spiced up with textiles in soft shades of orange Ektorp cushion cover in Orange Kvarter, £29; curtains in Mandarin Orange/Soft White Gotland Stripe, from £95 per pair; all Bemz. Tango throw, £58, Scandinavian Design Center

### 9 Terrace

A reindeer hide sits on the back of one of the wicker chairs that Lesley and Fredrik bought with the house, while tealights add to the festive feel

For similar chairs, try the Marlow dining armchairs, £333 each, Bridgman

'I have a very personal approach to décor – I like to mix up antiques with mid-century pieces'

and the blue-grey of the rocky shoreline and the sea beyond. 'I wanted to bring the colours of nature and of the building inside the house, which is why there are threads of red and green in every room,' she says.

Lesley and Fredrik brought a few items from their previous home – their favourite Arco floor lamp for the living room, a couple of large paintings and various Eames chairs – but Lesley sought out new things, too. 'I didn't want to force our old furniture into the new house, so I recycled quite a lot of it via the website blocket.se, and found new things to buy from there and other websites, such as the online auction house Bukowski Auktioner,' she says.

The couple's favourite room is the cosy snug on the first floor, which has lovely views into the tree canopy and to the sea beyond. It also has an outdoor terrace, for enjoying the long summer nights. 'This is where we relax as a family, read books, watch TV and chat,' says Lesley. Everyday affordable designs, such as an Ikea sofa, are mixed with more special pieces, such as a pair of original Bruno Mathsson T102 chairs from the Thirties. 'Beautiful design makes me happy,' says Lesley – spoken like a true Scandinavian. ■



**10 Dining room**

A festive candelabra in bold red provides a striking focal point  
For a similar candelabra, try the Nordic light, from £64.90, Houseology

**12 Family room**

A desk beneath the window provides a view of the treetops  
For a similar chair, try the RAR rocker in orange, £356, Voga

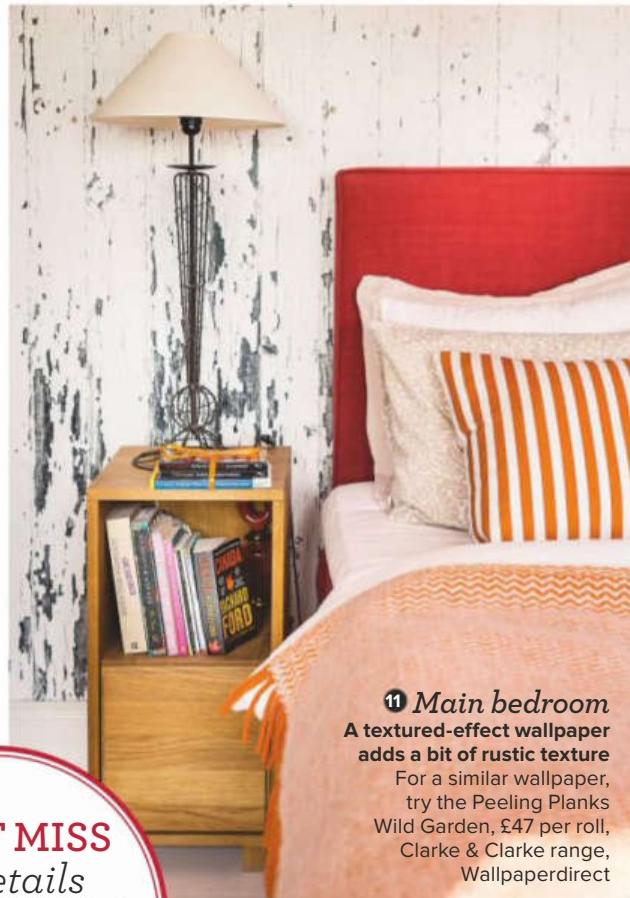
**DON'T MISS  
the details**

**Bold designs, quirky buys and accents of rich red and orange create a warm atmosphere**

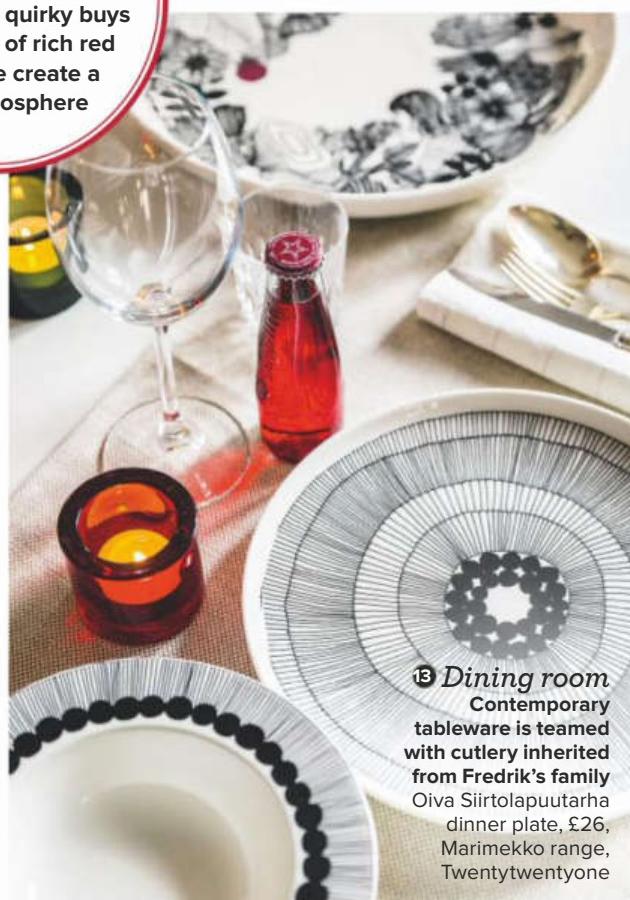
**11 Main bedroom**

A textured-effect wallpaper adds a bit of rustic texture

For a similar wallpaper, try the Peeling Planks Wild Garden, £47 per roll, Clarke & Clarke range, Wallpaperdirect

**13 Dining room**

Contemporary tableware is teamed with cutlery inherited from Fredrik's family  
Oiva Siirtolapuutarha dinner plate, £26, Marimekko range, Twentytwentyone



# Get Lesley's look

Create a rustic, Scandi-style retreat in bleached white with warm orange and red accents

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## BEDROOM



**Retro rocker**  
Add a statement piece to a country scheme

Charles Eames style RAR rocking chair in white, Vita Interiors

£59



**Tangerine dream**  
Perk it up with a bold stripe

Gotland Stripe cushion cover in Mandarin Orange/Soft White (50cm sq), Bemz

£19

**Wire works**  
Partner a steel cage lamp base with a simple fabric shade

Shilling lamp with shade, Loaf



**Heart warmer**

Fall for this hand-carved vintage-look candlestick

Wood heart dinner candlestick, Retreat Home

£14.99

**Vibrant red**  
Warm an all-white scheme

Burdock double bedstead in Crimson (H111cm x W137cm x L201cm), Button & Sprung

£545



## ASK LESLEY

### ■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'Sunshine streams through the windows from morning until evening.'

### ■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS

'Eclectic, celebrating beautiful textiles and design.'

### ■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ONLINE INTERIORS SHOP?

'Bukowskis Market ([bukowskismarket.com/en](http://bukowskismarket.com/en)). I love antiques, and it has things from the 19th and 20th centuries right up to the present day.'

### ■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?

'Decide on your colour palette, then play with it. Three to five colours are enough to hold a room together visually.'

### ■ WHAT INSPIRED YOUR STYLE?

'The red of the roof, white of the timber cladding, green of the trees and grey-blue of the sea.'

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^Most models.

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Anouk Dusk curtains, Lyra White Voiles, Beachwood Wood Illusion blind

Give your windows the attention they deserve with blinds, curtains and shutters from Hillarys. For a truly modern look and feel choose full-length curtains in a contemporary pattern, like our on-trend Anouk design in dusk grey. And for complete control over light and privacy, layer your curtains with a voile or blind, or even both – the extra layers will look simply stunning and will create a cosy atmosphere, perfect for the bedroom.

BE INSPIRED, BE CREATIVE with DECEMBER'S DECORATING IDEAS

# Be your own INTERIOR DESIGNER

If you love the stylish schemes in Ideal Home, but aren't sure how to transform your own rooms, *we're here to help*. All great looks start with inspiring images, so *indulge in a research session* with our decorating section, then *build a moodboard* for your project.

To see our moodboards and *for more inspiration*, turn the page...



## Neutral chic

Re-create this boutique-hotel look, page 120



FIND INSPIRING MOODBOARDS ONLINE AT  
[housetohome.co.uk/moodboards](http://housetohome.co.uk/moodboards)

# *Be inspired by our* **MOODBOARDS**

We use expert interior-design techniques to create our decorating looks. Each starts with a moodboard, like the ones here. Use one of these as a starting point for a stylish new scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
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moodboards](http://housetohome.co.uk/moodboards)

## MISTLETOE & TWINE

Give traditional materials a refined update

Osamu Hazlenut **fabric** (background), £54 per m, Harlequin. IM1849 **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Quick Step. **Tree decorations**, both from a selection, Gisela Graham. Star **wreath**, £4.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. 2088/33 **fabric**, £60 per m, Villa Nova. For a similar **saucer**, try the espresso saucer, £3, John Lewis. London Stone **Estate Emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Side plate**, £10; Stanton **cutlery**, £95 for a 16 piece set; all The White Company. Lucia **napkin**, £4.99, LinenMe. **Tag**, £3.50 for eight, Rastall & Daughters. **Ribbons**, from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons. **Biscuits**, £1.49 for 100g, Ocado

Made  
with love!

SEE IT IN  
A ROOM...  
page 102





SEE IT IN  
A ROOM...  
page 20

## PLAYFUL PRINTS

Layer colourful motifs for a fun effect

Sisal Fine Boucle **flooring**, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. G23104 **wallpaper**, £29.95 per roll, Wallpaperdirect. Elis **rug**, £220, Cox & Cox. Robots polkadot single **duvet cover** with pillowcase, £45, Cath Kidston. **Cushion** made in Woodland Rose cotton duck (front), £20 per m, Cath Kidston; Suffolk Check S Bluebell, £24.50 per m, Ian Mankin. **Giftwrap**, £1.50 per sheet; **gift tag**, 85p; both Julia Davey range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **Ribbon**, £2.70 for 3m, Jane Means. **Stocking kit**, from £9.50, LoveCrochet. **Robot**, £8, House of Fraser. **Russian doll**, £6, Marks & Spencer. Wooden **snowflake** decoration, £11.25 for three, Pipii

## OLD GOLD

Enliven autumnal tones with gold accents

V3159/04 **fabric**, £54 per m, Villa Nova. Laval Walnut **fabric**, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Distressed foil **cushion cover**, £25, House of Fraser. **Apple** decoration, £3.95, Norpar Barns. Ceramic **pine cones**, £6 each, Rowen & Wren. CY306 **flooring**, £64 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Mouse's Back **Estate Emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Tree topper**, £5, Wilko. Grosgrain **ribbon**, £1 per m, Jane Means. **Swatch** from Windsor sofa in Natural Linen, £2,195, Graham and Green. For a similar brown linen **fabric swatch**, try the Laval Walnut, as before

Design your  
own moodboard

*Cheat your way to a  
professional finish*

**1 Choose your base colour** Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

**2 Add an accent tone** A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

**3 Find the right accessories** These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.



SEE IT IN  
A ROOM...  
page 104

TURN OVER FOR MORE ►



### NATURE'S GIFTS

Choose an earthy palette for a rustic feel

**Stocking; sign;** both £3 each, Wilko. **Doormat,** £10, Next. Aquamarine, Aquamarine Deep and Sage Green Traditional Oil Eggshell **paint swatches;** all £56 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Wreath,** from £75, Gardenia of London. Window **stickers,** £5.50 for 13, Cox & Cox

SEE IT IN  
A ROOM...  
page 106



## HERITAGE RED

Team classic colours for a traditional look

Knightsbridge **carpet**, £80 per sq m, Brintons. **Cushion covers** made in Red Dachshund fabric (left), £48 per m, Emily Bond; made in Burlington Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo. Wooden **snowflake decoration**, £11.25 for three, Pipii. **Robin decoration**, £3.50, National Portrait Gallery. Kraft **gift box**, from £2.50, Paperchase. Jura tartan **ribbon**, £4.50 per 5m roll, Jane Means. Bertie on skis hanging **decoration**, £24, Plum & Ashby. Elephant Grey **matt emulsion**; Storm Grey **eggshell**; both £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany

## CALMING CREAMS

Keep it simple with a touch of luxe

Accent 110924 **wallpaper**, £65 per roll; Osamu 131432 **fabric swatch**, £54 per m; both Harlequin. Pampas Nordic **flooring** in Turku, £21.99 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. For a similar silver **side plate**, try the Filigree pastry plate, £8.50, Debenhams. For a similar gold **side plate**, try the Starburst, £10; Empire **cutlery**, £140 for a 24 piece set; all House of Fraser. For similar **napkins**, try the linen, £17 each, Jigsaw range; **napkin rings**, £12 for four; Amy **frame**, £15; all John Lewis

## Decorating? FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES

**1 THE 70-20-10 RULE** For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

**2 THE PATTERN RULE** When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

**3 THE PAINTED BOX RULE** The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

**AND FINALLY...** Always add a surprise. A focal point – whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art – is the short cut to a 'wow' room.



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Turn your hallway from functional to festive by hanging star lanterns, grouping candlesticks and dressing it with foliage

**BE CANDLE SAFE**

**HOME FOR  
*Christmas***

Let simple country style inspire your Christmas celebrations this year: elegant decorations in gleaming gold, fresh greenery and candlelight will make your home feel calm and welcoming

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 108

## GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

- ★ **HANG WREATHS** to create a focal point on a mirror or wall.
- ★ **DECORATE CHAIR BACKS** Tie on a bauble with ribbon and add a name label for a formal dinner.
- ★ **MAKE IT TWINKLE** Fairy lights around a mirror or window, candles arranged in clusters around the room and tree lights will set a special mood.
- ★ **USE FRESH FLOWERS** White blooms look particularly striking against winter greenery.
- ★ **ADD SIMPLE GLASS DECORATIONS** for an elegant look. Glass bonbon jars can do double duty holding baubles or sweet treats for guests.





Dress up a dining room so it's fit for feasting with shimmering linens, sparkling glasses, your best china and soft-gold decorations

**C**reating the right mood for a relaxing, classic Christmas can be easy if you use the right ingredients. To conjure up a festive scheme that's soothing yet still looks magical, keep brightly coloured baubles, bold wrapping paper and kitsch ornaments packed away and stick to a simpler style.

**CHOOSE A COLOUR** Use a couple of shades for decorations, giftwrap and ribbons. Muted and matt tones will bring a subtle elegance – try old gold with chocolate or pewter and dusky rose.

**PICK SIMPLE SHAPES** This isn't the look for tons of tinsel, clusters of shiny baubles or Santa pictures. Instead, include subtle country motifs, such as hearts and stars.

**GO NATURAL** Nothing beats the evocative smell of pine trees and eucalyptus, so make the most of nature's bounty and include a real tree, fresh foliage and mistletoe in your decorating.

**IDEAL HOME** ❤ MOODBOARD  
Mistletoe & Twine

For details of this moodboard, turn to page 96

### THE PALETTE

Give a neutral scheme a subtle sprinkling of festive gold

#### CALM CLASSIC

Add some gentle shimmer  
Belvedere 111247, £48 per roll,  
Harlequin

#### THINK GREIGE

Use warm tones  
Donkey Ride Claypaint, £35 for 2.5ltr,  
Earthborn

**STAR OF THE SHOW**  
Choose a statement design  
Cassia 331946, £98 per m, Zoffany



Create the perfect living room for holiday unwinding with plenty of comfy seating, surfaces close to hand for putting drinks and nibbles on, and space to unwrap presents

## GET COSY AND COMFORTABLE

- ★ **GO FORMAL** Put ornaments in glass cloches for upscale style.
- ★ **DECORATE WITH LIGHT** Use battery-powered fairy lights to highlight displays around the room on tables, shelves and sills.
- ★ **BRING OUT THE BLANKETS** Pile up soft cushions and throws for snuggling up together.
- ★ **LIGHT SCENTED CANDLES** Fill the room with festive aromas.
- ★ **CUSTOMISE BASIC GARLANDS** with golden decorations for a glamorous, rustic-luxe look.



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD  
*Old Gold*



*For details of this moodboard,  
turn to page 96*

## HUG THEM 'HELLO' OR 'GOODBYE'

- ★ **MAKE A STATEMENT** Go big with a bespoke door wreath for a 'wow' welcome.
- ★ **TURN THE TABLES** Use a garden table to create a decorative display in a porch area.
- ★ **LINE UP LANTERNS** Create an inviting glow with candles in different-sized silver lanterns.
- ★ **KEEP IT SIMPLE** White paper decorations can look just as striking as blinging baubles.



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Nature's Gifts



For details of this moodboard,  
turn to page 96



### DON'T MISS the details

Focus on dressing key focal points beautifully, mixing glass and silver pieces, fresh foliage and fairy lights



# Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**p101 HALLWAY DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Walls painted in Stony Ground Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. DP102 flooring, £55 per sq m; runner made in Wool Alluring Stripe Mousey/Cinnamon; border in Cotton Herringbone Down; from £121 per sq m; all Crucial Trading. Parkstead console, £859; Sash mirror, £255; both Oka. Bespoke garland (on stairs), from £150, Gardener of London. Square pendant, from £426, Davey Lighting range, Original BTC. ON CONSOLE Pillar candle holders; mini Christmas trees; all £25 each; Twenty One candle, £35; Winter votive candle, £10; Hexagon tealight holder, £6; large Winter Botanical candle, £35; all The White Company. Mercury silvered tealight holder, £9.95 for three, Nordic House. Wooden calendar, £16.99; bleached willow twig wreath, £11.99; both Gisela Graham. Large Shimmer tealight holder, £5, Lombok. Candlesticks, from £12.50 each, Nordic House. Slate candle plate, £20, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. ON SHELF Mohair throw in Squirrel Grey, £89.95; herringbone throw in beige, £89.95; both Bronte by Moon. Jingle bell garland, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Decorative bowl, £25; Siri box, £175; Rattan shelf baskets, £68 each; all Lombok. Hexagon tealight holder, Mercury silvered tealight holder; both as before. Glass dome, £45, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. Brown Kraft carrier bags, £2.50 for five, Jane Means. Brown velvet ribbon, from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons. Hand-stamped gift tags, £3.50 for eight, Rastall & Daughters. ON WALL Frosted fir and berry garland, from £30.99, Gisela Graham. Large brass standing stars, £59.95 each, Nkuku range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Hanging tealight star lanterns, £30 each, The White Company.



**p104 LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Wall painted in Mouse's Back Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Blind made in Laval Parchment, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Curtain made in Helliar Driftwood, £54 per m, Villa Nova. CY306 flooring, £64 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Tolsey rug, £370; Olivia armchairs in Pale Oat, £1,040 each; Aldwych coffee table, from £365; all Neptune. Windsor three-seater sofa in Natural Linen, £2,195, Graham and Green. Costes ottoman, £195, Oka. BK4 bookcase, from £1,847, Scumble



**p102 DINING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Walls painted in London Stone Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Colebrooke fire surround, £930, Chesney's. IM1849 flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. Adya rug, £295, Lombok. Harrogate dining chairs, £215 each; six-seater dining table, £1,260; 4ft dresser, from £1,695; sideboard, £950; mirror, from £365; all Chichester range, Neptune. Curtains made in Osamu, £54 per m, Harlequin. Blind made in Laval, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Ullswater 2.7m tree, £250, Dobbies Garden Centres. Heart wreaths, £13.99 each, Gisela Graham. ON DINING TABLE Emilia Sand tablecloth, £49.99; Rustic runner, £16.99; Lucia napkins, £4.99 each; all LinenMe. Artisan dinner plates, £12 each; side plates, £10 each; Stanton cutlery, £95 for a 16-piece set; crackers, £35 for six; hexagonal tealight holders, from £6 each; all The White Company. Tirol wine glasses, £30 for four, LSA International. Candlesticks, from £14.95 each, Nordic House. Giftwrap, £12.95; gift tags, £3.50 for eight; all as before.

Goosie. Classic Victorian fire surround, £810, Chesney's. For a similar mirror, try a selection, Pimpernel & Partners. 7.5ft Vermont White Spruce lit tree, £699, Balsam Hill. ON SOFA Faux-fur throw in Snow Fox, £195, Cox & Cox. Cushions, from left: Textured weave, £12, Next; Burton Natural, £25; Luce, £40; both John Lewis; Distressed foil, £25, House of Fraser. ON/NEAR ARMCHAIR Florence cushion, £50, Neptune. Knitted sack, £45, The White Company. ON COFFEE TABLE Slate candle plate, £20; glass dome, £45; hurricane lantern, £40; throw, £79; all John Lewis. Shimmer tealight holder, from £4, Lombok. Hurricane, £20, The White Company. Ceramic pine cones, £6 each, Rowen & Wren. Cake stand, £75 for a three-piece set, LSA International. Mince pies, £2 for six, Tesco. Church decoration, £2, Tesco Direct. Pine cones, from £3.50 per bag; Snowy Fir branch, £8.50; all Norpar Barns. White bowl, £45; oval platter, from £60; both Mervyn Gers range, Heal's. Jingle Bell garland, £12.95; gift tags, £3.50 for eight; all Rastall & Daughters. Giftwrap, from a selection, Paperchase and Waitrose. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. ON TREE Tree topper, £5, Wilko. Decorations, from a selection, Gisela Graham. ON MANTEL Apples and pears, £3.95 each, Norpar Barns. Frosted fir and berry garland, from £30.99, Gisela Graham. Gia candlesticks, from £22 each, Lombok. Winter Pillar Botanical candles, £25 each, The White Company. Brass standing star, from £29.95, Nkuku range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Shimmer tealight holder, as before. Limed wood finials, from £98 each, Rowen & Wren. ON OTTOMAN Sorano teacup and saucer, £12, Oka. Kraft paper, £3 per roll, Paperchase. Gift tags; ribbon; all as before. ON BOOKCASE For a similar branch, try the Snowy Fir, as before. Jingle Bell garland; Shimmer tealight holder; church decoration; all as before. Siri frame, £30; CD boxes, £28 each; all Lombok. Cards, from a selection, Tesco Direct



**p106 PORCH DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Door painted in Sage Green Traditional Oil Eggshell, £56 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Table, from £380; planter, from a selection; both Petersham Nurseries. Wreath, from £75, Gardenia of London. Basket, £60; stool, £95; both Garden Trading. Doormat, £10, Next. Stickers, £5.50 for 13, Cox & Cox. Sign, £3, Wilko. Paper honeycombs, £6 for three, Talking Tables. ON SHELF Lantern, from £8, Tesco Direct. Tall lantern, £30, House of Fraser. Hexagonal tealight holder, £6, The White Company. Shimmer tealight holder, from £4, Lombok. ON TABLE Hurricane, £20; plates, £8 each; all The White Company. Shimmer tealight holders, as before. Reindeer, £25, House of Fraser. Lantern, as before. Garland, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Stocking, £3, Wilko. ON STOOL Basket, £70, Neptune. Giftwrap; ribbons; all from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons and Paperchase



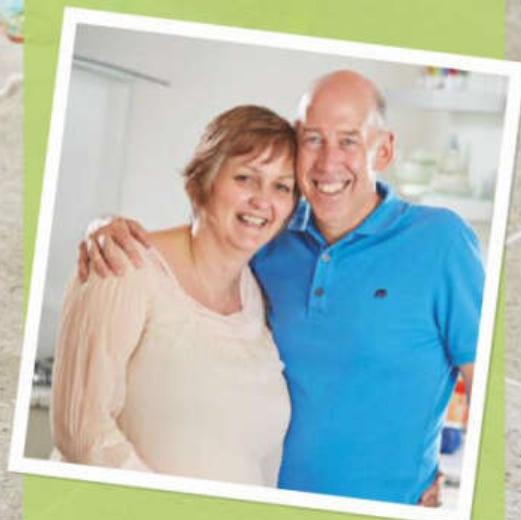
Karndean  
Designflooring

## Jezfest vs. Karndean: Jeremy & Vanessa's Story

"I'd always decided that I was going to have a big party for my 50th. One of my friends enjoyed it so much they said - Never mind Glastonbury, this is Jezfest!"

"We turned the hallway into a dancefloor in previous years whereas now having an open plan room and nice flooring we were able to congregate in here, confident that we didn't have to worry about anything happening to the floor."

Watch their story at:  
[karndean.com/jezfest](http://karndean.com/jezfest)



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# PICK THE Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## Fall for metallic designs

### WHY WE LOVE THEM

Inject light and warmth into your decorating scheme with the glitz and glamour of metallic wallpaper and fabrics. There's a huge selection to choose from, including traditional gold and silver designs, and the latest bronze, copper and rose-gold finishes.

### WHERE TO USE THEM

Traditional damasks in metallic colourways create a dramatic focal point in a living or dining room, while metallic stripes, geometrics and florals look stunning in a bedroom or hall.

**HOW TO USE THEM** Due to their reflective nature, metallic wallpapers are an ideal choice in smaller rooms as they will

make the space seem larger, but go for a plain gilded design or one which has a more intricate pattern so that it's not overwhelming. Reserve big, bold patterns for larger rooms and statement feature walls. Rich metallic fabrics will add an opulent feel to curtains, while an upholstered sofa or armchair provides a luxurious touch.

### HOW TO ACCESSORISE THEM

Don't be afraid to add metallic accessories to the mix – gold, silver, bronze and copper vases, ornaments and tableware will all enhance the glitz. Be sure to include a variety of lamps, candelabras and lanterns, too, as these will bounce light around the room even more.

### 3 places to buy SHINY DESIGNS

**Barneby Gates** Take a look at the striking design of Marrakech Palm, in Midnight Blue or Gold, £78 per roll.

**Erica Wakerly** Check out the many metallic wallpapers, including bold geometrics, floral motifs and several new copper designs, from £69 per roll.

**Villa Nova** The new Xander collection features fabric designs that are influenced by tarnished and burnished metals, from £25 per m, and lustrous wallcoverings, priced at £44 per roll.



**EXTRA CELESTIAL**  
Metallic colourways add a touch of grandeur  
Bayham Abbey wallpaper in Celestial, £57 per roll, Little Greene



'Metallic designs will reflect Christmas fairy lights and candles to create an extra-magical atmosphere'

**Karen Bray,**  
Acting Features Editor



**▲ GOLDEN GLOW**  
Add warmth and depth to your scheme with a gilded bronze paper  
Majestic Uni Cuivre MAJ26373129 wallpaper; Majestic Ornament Noir/Cuivre MAJ26419312 wallpaper; both £43.50 per roll, Casadeco

**◀ ON THE TILES**  
A sophisticated trompe l'oeil tile effect is brought to life with a metallic finish  
Akoa Platinum 110635 wallpaper, £78 per roll, Leonida Wallpapers collection; sofa covered in Perla, £68 per m; Aurelia, £92 per m; both Leonida Velvets collection; all Harlequin

## IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on these luxurious damask fabrics

### SHINE ON

Team scarlet and bronze for an eye-catching duo  
Lydford damask, GP&J Baker range, Fabrics & Papers

£89 per m



### CLASSIC TOUCH

A soft textured fabric that's ideal for a statement sofa or armchair  
Conway damask, John Lewis

£30 per m



## TOP 10 *Wallpapers*

### Chic metallics

Transform your walls with shimmer and shine

1

**Smart choice**  
Textured foil designs are a subtle way to add glamour to a room  
Muriva Foil texture gold effect, £18 per roll, B&Q



2

**Add sparkle**  
A classic-style design with a silver-foil finish  
Damask Foil, £32 per roll, Albany range, Wallpaperdirect



3

**Bold blooms**  
Create a dramatic look  
Botanic Charcoal/Gold, £20 per roll, Kelly Hoppen range, Graham & Brown



4

**Geometric glam**  
Go for a delicate motif  
Sussex, £58 per roll, Designers Guild range, John Lewis



5

**Modern twist**  
An elegant new take on traditional damask  
Alexander Gold, £44 per roll, Laura Ashley



*More over the page...*

THE TOP 10 WALLPAPERS  
*...continued*

'Metallic wallpapers help to banish the winter gloom by adding a glamorous touch to any room'

**Karen Bray,**  
Acting Features Editor

6

*Out of Africa*  
An intricate Moorish design with soft, subtle metallic tones

Xilia Lovat, £50 per roll, Orvieto Wallcoverings collection, Romo

7

*Striking gold*  
Simple yet glamorous  
Ocelot Ombre W6547 02, £59 per roll, Eden collection, Matthew Williamson range, Osborne & Little

8

*Standout style*  
Embossed paper with a metallic shimmer  
Mosaic Dapple in Silver, £86 per roll, Zoffany

9

*Luxurious leaves*  
A full-foil shiny design  
Hothouse, £79 per roll, Erika Wakerly range, Wallpaperdirect

10

*Copper classic*  
Smart, sparkly stripes  
Artisan Stripe Copper, £20 per roll, Graham & Brown



Starla wallpaper, £59 per roll, Sojourn Wallpapers collection, Sanderson

FEATURE KAREN BRAY PHOTOGRAPHS RHAPSODY MEDIA

## WHAT'S NEW AT Sanderson

The classic brand has launched a new range inspired by global prints



Boho Flowers, £95 per m (top); Jamila, £85 per m; both Sojourn collection, Sanderson

**THE COMPANY** Founded by Arthur Sanderson in 1860, Sanderson has become a household name in interior design, producing an extensive range of fabrics, wallpapers, bed linen, paint and tableware. Internationally renowned for its quintessentially English style, the collections today have evolved to encompass a broad range – from timeless and traditional classics to cutting-edge contemporary chic.

**THE NEW COLLECTION** Inspired by global textiles and treasured objects brought back from adventures abroad, the new Sojourn collection provides a

fresh approach on how to incorporate global patterns into our homes. The Starla wallpaper – available in cream and grey, and magenta and lime – features an Asian-style sunburst design, while the charming Boho Flowers fabric has a hand-crafted, folky feel. The classic paisley motif of the Jamila fabric is available in a combination of fresh, vibrant shades, including bright orange and lime, and coral and aqua.

**WHY WE LOVE IT** This extroverted collection reinvents traditional global-inspired prints, patterns and textures in a fresh and contemporary way.



CLARKE & CLARKE  
KIM PARKER  
Art Book [www.clarke-clarke.com](http://www.clarke-clarke.com)

# COLOUR SCHOOL

# Heritage Red

Warm up a country-style scheme with accents of this comforting colour

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

No other shade evokes the **celebratory mood** of Christmas quite like rich cranberry red. Use **woollen and felt textiles** in this bold colour to bring a welcoming atmosphere to a cool palette of **taupe and grey**. Add plenty of **natural elements**, such as wooden furniture, wicker baskets and **evergreen foliage**, for a refined, traditional scheme with a cosy, enveloping feel



Bring a contemporary spin to a country scheme by mixing checked and fun animal-print patterns



IDEAL HOME ❤ MOODBOARD  
Heritage Red



For details of this moodboard,  
turn to page 96

See all the details & more ways with heritage red over the page

# More ways with heritage red

*Try it with...*

## CHOCOLATE BROWN

Layer different shades of brown on walls, flooring and fabrics for country-club style



### Pale fawn

A chalky shade  
True Taupe  
Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

### Soft touch

Mix tactile textures  
Cranberry velvet, £40 per m, Neptune

### Check it

Woollen wonder  
Reflection in Mocha U1117/D03, £49.95 per m, Abraham Moon & Sons



Get a modern look with a plank-effect paper and a mix of bold checks



Combine taupe walls with leather furniture and plaid textiles for relaxed elegance

## Try it with... MONOCHROME

For a contemporary take on country style, stick to a striking palette of red, black and white, and team checked fabrics with a rustic-effect wallpaper

### Plaid and proud

Go for a bold choice  
Quirky Fling in Natural, £99.84 per sq m, Alternative Flooring



**Rich red**  
Add deep colour  
Radicchio Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

**DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Walls painted in Elephant Grey matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Flat Victorian **mantel**, from £366, Amazing Grates; painted in Storm Grey eggshell, £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Knightsbridge **carpet**, £80 per sq m, Brintons. Queen Anne **footstool**, from £620, The Dormy House; covered in Launay Linen, £50 per m, Romo. Pudding **sofa** in Willow wool, £1,395; Sandie **side table**, £225; both Loaf. Climping **armchair** in Hawes linen, £1,386, Sofas & Stuff. Radley **dressers**, £1,859 each, Multiyork. C-Seven **wood-burning stove**, £1,236, Charnwood. **Curtains** made in Launay Linen, as before; border made in Launay Cranberry, £50 per m, Romo. 7ft Norway Spruce **tree**, £299, Balsam Hill. **Sledge**, £98, Hedgehog. **Log basket**, £60, Garden Trading. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: made in Bonham Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo; Needful in Flax, £45, Loaf; made in Red Dachshund, £48 per m, Emily Bond; made in Burlington Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo. **ON/NEAR FOOTSTOOL**

Chalet **throw**, £89.95, Bronte by Moon. Leather **tray**, £115, Life of Riley. Glass jar **vase**, from £18, Rockett St George. **Crackers**, £55 for six, Thornback and Peel. Red glass **candle**, £36, Molton Brown. Red **plate**, £1.50, Tesco Direct. **Decanter**, £40, John Lewis. Kraft **gift boxes**, from £2.50 each; red **ribbon**, from a selection; kraft **paper**, £4 for 50 sheets; all Paperchase. Jura tartan **ribbon**, £4.50 per roll, Jane Means. Dog **trinket**, £3 for three, Sainsbury's. **Robin**, £3.50, National Portrait Gallery. **ON CHAIR Cushion** made in Bonham Lacquer Red, as before. **ON TREE Wooden snowflake decorations**, £11.25 for three, Pipii. Other **decorations**, from a selection, Dobbies Garden Centres and Tesco Direct. **Robins**, as before. Christmas **lights**, £18 for 80, John Lewis. **ON/NEAR MANTEL Lanterns**, from £25 each; pillar **candles**, from £6 each; all Nordic House. **Bertie** on wheels, from £45, Plum & Ashby. Red glass **candle**, as before; **terrarium**, £22.50; Party dome **dog**, £10; all Rockett St George. Fraser fir **wreath**, from £49;

Fraser fir **lit garland**, £79; both Balsam Hill. For a similar **berry garland**, try the red berry and cone, £20, Tesco Direct. **Present decorations**, £14 for two, Plum & Ashby. **Stocking**, £11.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. **Cracker**, as before. **ON SIDE TABLE Terrarium**, as before. **Robin**, as before. Wooden **lantern**, £15, Tesco Direct. Pillar **candle**, as before. For a similar **lamp base**, try the Ockley, £80, Laura Ashley. 16in drum **lampshade**, £69.75, Lighting Works; covered in Red Dachshund, as before. **IN LEFT-HAND DRESSER** (from top) Glass jar **vases**, as before. Noel **light**, £25, George. Pine cone and berries **wreath**, £29, Very. **Silver wreath**, £30, Debenhams. **IN RIGHT-HAND DRESSER** (from top) **Hurricanes**, £48 each, Rockett St George. **Frame**, £10, Sainsbury's. Ceramic **Bertie decorations**, £35 each, Plum & Ashby. Retro taupe **vase**, £25.50, Nordic House. Storm **lanterns**, £48 each, John Lewis. **Baubles**, £16.65 for six, LoveCrochet. Leather **box**, £165, Life of Riley

# dwell

live like this

fraro three seater sofa £999  
pentagon side table walnut £99  
blade charcoal rugs from £249  
cushions from £24.95



## NEW STORE

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# Create a winter WONDERLAND

*Bring the beauty of the outdoors into your home*

**E**scape the seasonal hustle and bustle and create a calm, wintry retreat at home this Christmas. From festive furnishings and tableware to wreaths, baubles and Christmas decorations, you'll find all you need to set the scene in the new Winter's Tale collection at Sainsbury's.

## *Keep it calm*

Go for understated cool with a chic, silver and white scheme this Christmas. The essence of this look is found in the wintry outdoor landscape, with its snowy scenes, frosty finishes and icy palette.

## *Snuggle in*

Warm up this wintry scheme with cosy textures and tactile finishes. The range includes accessories and touches of sparkle to help you pull the look together.

## *Look to nature*

Take inspiration from nature when it comes to finishing touches – think rustic pine-cone wreaths, forest scenes and silver stags. You'll find everything you need in the Winter's Tale collection, available in selected Sainsbury's stores.



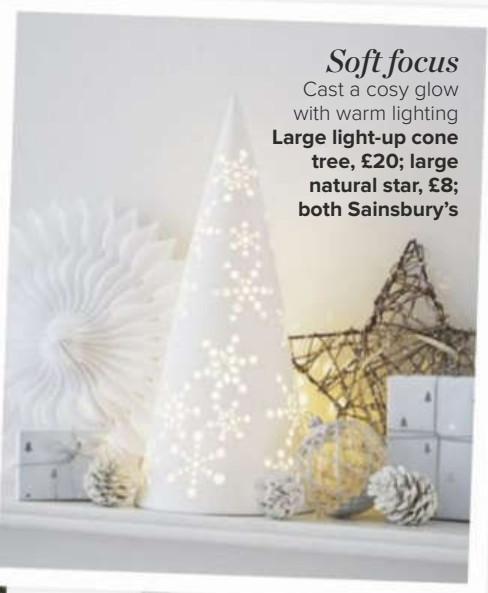
*A touch offrost*

Channel midwinter's beauty with shimmering silver and grey designs  
**Elegant reindeer, £35; large whitewash lit wreath, £25; silver sequin cushion, £15; decorations, from a selection; all Sainsbury's**



*'An icy palette of white, grey and silver will transform your home this Christmas'*

ANDREW TANNER,  
HEAD OF HOME DESIGN, SAINSBURY'S

*Soft focus*

Cast a cosy glow with warm lighting  
**Large light-up cone tree, £20; large natural star, £8; both Sainsbury's**

*Cool candle*

Bring sophisticated style  
**Winter Wishes glass candle with metal lid, £15, Sainsbury's**

*Take heart*

Add sparkle to the tree with silver decorations  
**Heart trinket, £6, Sainsbury's**

*Forest scene*

Enjoy a view with your brew  
**Winter Trees mug, £2.50, Sainsbury's**

*Twig this*

A simple centrepiece  
**Whitewash twig candle wreath, £12, Sainsbury's**

*For more information...*

TO SEE PRODUCTS FROM THE AUTUMN/WINTER RANGES AND FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE, VISIT [sainsburyshome.co.uk](http://sainsburyshome.co.uk)

**Sainsbury's**

# Boutique HOTEL SPY

## Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

We took a sneak peek into this gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

**LOCATION** Situated in the picturesque Oxfordshire village of Great Milton, Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons is one of the country's most intimate and original hotels, and was created by celebrated chef Raymond Blanc OBE.

**ROOMS** The five Superior rooms, each inspired by Raymond Blanc's travels, have a luxurious feel with sumptuous soft furnishings and queen-size beds. There are also Deluxe rooms and several suites. The pièce de résistance, however, is the Blanc de Blanc suite (pictured), which consists of a bedroom, living room, dressing room, marble

bathroom and terrace. Decorated in a tranquil palette of white and cream, this ecofriendly suite features classic furniture for a timeless, elegant feel, with sleek ceramics and a chandelier adding to the sense of luxury.

**FAMOUS FOR** Offering one of the finest gastronomic experiences in the country, thanks to the acclaimed on-site Raymond Blanc Cookery School. When the hotel opened in 1984, it received two Michelin stars, which it still has, so you can expect some of the best food in the world.

**CELEBRITY GUESTS** Recent guests include Katherine Jenkins, Lesley Garrett and *Strictly's* Brendan Cole.

### YOU CAN BUY THE LOOK...



**Bling it up**  
Bring glamour to a neutral scheme  
Everly chandelier, BHS

£280

£10

£600

£235

**Shade of pale**  
Has subtle textured detail for added interest  
Norton white textural ceramic vase, Habitat

#### FACT FILE

##### HOTEL

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

##### ADDRESS

Church Road,  
Great Milton,  
Oxford OX44 7PD

##### PRICE

From £550 per night  
for a Superior room,  
including breakfast

##### CONTACT

01844 278881;  
[belmond.com/le-manoir-aux-quat-saisons-oxfordshire](http://belmond.com/le-manoir-aux-quat-saisons-oxfordshire)



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#### Table talk

The oval top gives it a soft, sleek outline  
Austin extendable dining table (H77cm x W106cm x L138-179cm), Dunelm



**Take flight**  
This display cabinet doubles up as a striking ornament  
Aviary cage cabinet in ivory, India Jane



**Curved lines**  
Add a touch of French-style chic  
Provencal linen lady's chair, The French Bedroom Company

Add interest to an all-cream scheme with curvy, textured accessories, plus a chic chandelier for a luxurious feel

### WIN A NIGHT'S STAY

Visit the Home Shopping Spy blog for our review of this hotel and more great shopping ideas, plus your chance to win a night's stay for two people

Stick to different tones of one pale neutral colour to create a tranquil feel

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD  
*Calming Creams*



## IDEAL v GREAT DEAL

*Get the look whatever the budget*

£168



#### White light

Pick a sculptural lamp  
Selby marble large lamp base; 16in Mocha shade; both Laura Ashley

£46



*Light up*  
A hand-made design that will look great on a mantelpiece or side table  
Flared storm lantern (H29cm), LSA International

£7.99

*All aglow*  
Also includes sand to keep the candle firmly in place  
Hurricane vase church candle set (H20cm), Dunelm

### LOVE THE LOOK

Team pale, textured neutrals with touches of gold and sparkle, then add a fresh white floral display

For more moodboards turn to page 96



OUT  
NOW

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COMPLETE GUIDE TO

# Christmas

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# PROPERTY PROJECTS

Get the very best advice and inspiration for all your home renovation projects

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



## REAL HOME IMPROVEMENT



## ‘We extended not once or twice, but three times’

**Kevin and Alison Collins** lived with

**their three children in a run-down Fifties house in Cambridge for two years, before deciding what to do to it, but now it's unrecognisable.** After replacing the garage with a two-storey side extension, the couple added another two-storey extension to the front of the house to create a study, utility room and a fourth bedroom. Then, a third single-story extension across the back gave them

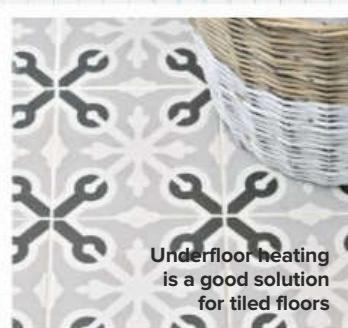
space for an open-plan kitchen-diner, living area and a playroom, and three new sets of bifold doors now flood those rooms with light. The roof and windows were replaced, and the whole house was rendered in white. A 16-panel photovoltaic solar system was installed on the roof to generate electricity. ‘We wanted a home with enough space for us all to spend time together,’ says Kevin. ‘It’s everything we’d hoped for and more.’



### FIND OUT MORE...

- Photovoltaic (PV) panels can generate electricity even on a cloudy day, though they work best in strong sunlight.
- The power of a solar PV system is measured

- in kilowatts peak (kWp).
- The average system is a 4kWp model costing from £6,000-£7,400, equivalent to a typical household’s annual electricity needs.



Underfloor heating is a good solution for tiled floors

## SOURCEBOOK

### Underfloor heating

Don't know where to start?  
Try our top five places...

#### FLOOR HEATING-DIRECT

**01887 822028;** [floorheating-direct.co.uk](http://floorheating-direct.co.uk) Supplying a wide range of both water and electric underfloor-heating systems, this company also has a tool on its website that lets you type in your flooring details and get instant costs. Prices from £330 for a 20sq m wet-system kit.

#### HEAT MAT

**01444 247020;** [heatmat.co.uk](http://heatmat.co.uk) This leading manufacturer and distributor of electric underfloor heating also produces ultra-thin mats and systems for small areas. Prices start from £175 for 1.1sq m, excluding installation.

#### NU-HEAT

**01404 549770;** [nu-heat.co.uk](http://nu-heat.co.uk) Major suppliers of warm-water underfloor heating and integrated renewable systems, such as solar thermal energy and heat pumps. All systems are bespoke, but a single zone of 10sq m costs from £522.

#### UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

**01905 616928;** [underfloorheatingsystems.co.uk](http://underfloorheatingsystems.co.uk) Suppliers and installers of warm-water systems for more than a decade. Prices from £370 for a 10sq m kit, plus £5-£6 per sq m for installation if needed.

#### THE UNDERFLOOR

**SUPERSTORE** **01530 414413;** [theunderfloorsuperstore.co.uk](http://theunderfloorsuperstore.co.uk) Suppliers of wet and electric underfloor systems, as well as air-source heat pumps. Wet systems are priced from £383 for a 20sq m kit.



## TOP TREND Dark tones

If sleek minimalism and glossy white units aren't your thing, you're not alone – there's a rising popularity for kitchens with dark-coloured units that create an intimate, cosy ambience. Neptune's beautiful solid-wood kitchens look fabulous in darker shades, such as the Suffolk design in sophisticated charcoal. Or you could have just your island in a deep, dark colour to contrast with the rest of the units, such as the rich-red island (above) from the Ashton range – a classic country kitchen from Crown Imperial. Wren Kitchens also has a complete section on its website dedicated to dark- and black-coloured kitchens, with a selection available in both its designer range and the Linda Barker Collection.

## Speed it up

Varnish wood floors in less time with Ronseal's Perfect Finish Diamond Hard floor varnish, which comes with a pad attached to a long handle for easy application.



### Project KNOW HOW

Tempted to build your own home? Visit [selfbuildportal.org.uk](http://selfbuildportal.org.uk) for inspiring case studies, plot availability and planning advice. Produced by the National Custom & Self Build Association, it's a handy forum that will kick-start your project

## IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on wood-burning stoves



### Classic lines

This stove has a two-position grate for optimal burning  
Bellingham 8.3kW solid-fuel stove, Dimplex



### Savvy buy

The controlled airwash system on this model aids combustion  
Valor Ridlington 8kW cast iron multi-fuel stove, Homebase



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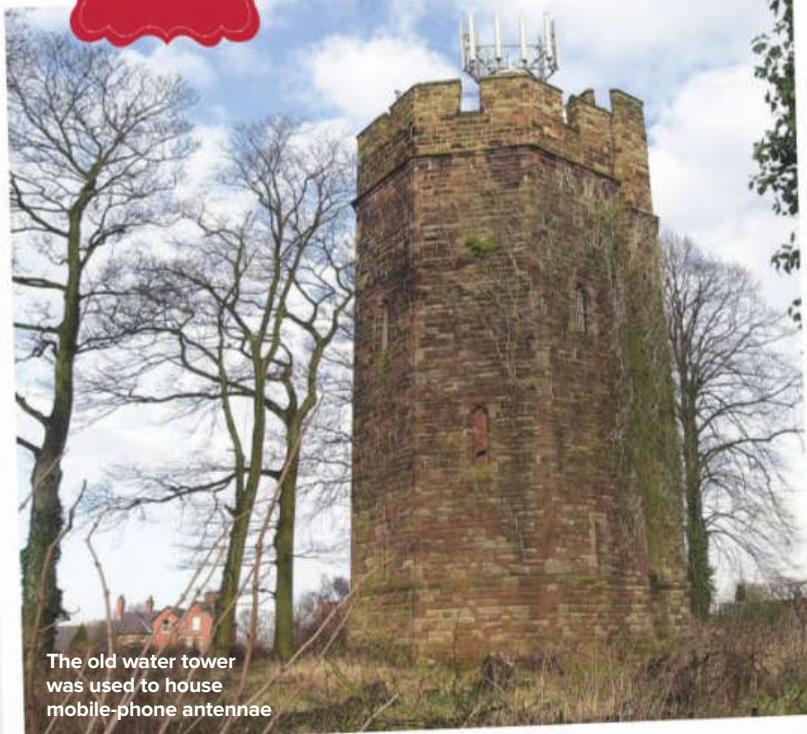
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# EXTREME Transformations

BEFORE



AFTER



## From disused water tower...

Russell and Jannette Harris converted and extended a Grade-II listed

**P**ure impulse led Russell and Jannette Harris to become owners of a derelict water tower, a much-loved local landmark in the pretty Cheshire village of Lymm. The couple had lived in the village for several years with their children, James and Sophie, and would often pass the tower – a crumbling, 130-year-old landmark straight out of a fairytale. Redundant for 30 years, its sole purpose now was to serve as a platform for a number of mobile-phone antennae.

Russell would regularly walk his dog along the footpath by the side of the

tower, and when it came onto the open market, he impulsively put in a bid and bought the stone structure. Suddenly, he and Jannette found themselves the owners of a Grade-II-listed building, and had to decide exactly what to do with their new acquisition. ‘What began as a whim turned into our own personal Everest,’ admits Russell when he describes the ambitious project they took on. ‘There were times when we thought we might never move in.’

**MAKING PLANS** Intent on creating an inspirational family home within the tower, the couple soon realised that it would be necessary to build a modern extension. Over a period

of five years, they battled with planners and local opposition, saw several architects come and go, and almost lost heart. However, a chance meeting with Barry Harvey of Redrow Homes proved a turning point. He introduced Russell and Jannette to Ellis Williams Architects (01928 752200; [ewa.co.uk](http://ewa.co.uk)), and Julian Baker from the practice came up with drawings that focused on blending contemporary design with the building’s traditional features.

Today, the finished two-storey extension has a sleek curved exterior finished in white render, with large panels of glazing and a distinctive overhanging roof. Inside, a series of



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, five-storey converted 1870s stone water tower in Lymm, Cheshire.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Russell and Jannette Harris, with their children, James, 25, and Sophie, 20. Russell is a TV presenter/producer and Jannette is a production co-ordinator.

### WHAT THEY DID

The couple restored the listed tower and built a two-storey wraparound modern extension.

### WHAT IT COST

The Harrises paid £138,000 for the tower in 1997 and have spent more than £750,000 restoring and extending the building, which is now worth more than £2 million.

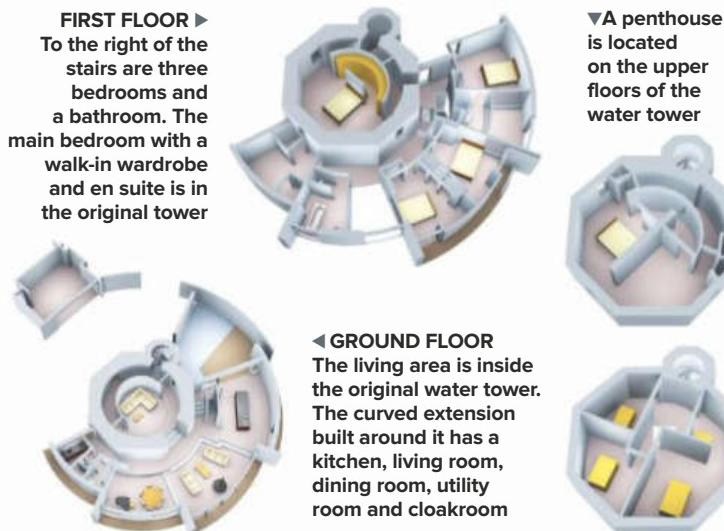
#### FIRST FLOOR ▶

To the right of the stairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The main bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and en suite is in the original tower



#### ◀ GROUND FLOOR

The living area is inside the original water tower. The curved extension built around it has a kitchen, living room, dining room, utility room and cloakroom



▼A penthouse is located on the upper floors of the water tower



# to hi-tech modern home

Victorian water tower into a stunning contemporary property

outward-facing living areas occupy the ground floor, with bedrooms above.

**CHALLENGING PROCESS** 'The tower was built in 1870 and was sponsored by the local landed gentry, which is why it is so beautiful,' says Jannette. 'It was the classic romantic Rapunzel tower, but it was also in desperate need of restoration.' A detailed report by a structural engineer found the existing water tank to be expanding due to corrosion, which had caused some cracking in the stonework. Also, the turret at the top of the spiral stairs had been damaged by movement of the original flagpole. All this called for a number of specialist companies to

be brought in and led Russell to give up work and take on the demanding role of project manager, overseeing the 60 companies involved in the restoration and build process.

An unsightly selection of mobile phone antennae on the roof of the old tower meant that the couple were entitled to rental income from various telecom operators – all very useful when faced with such a huge and costly building project – but the problem of what to do with the ugly masts remained. The architect's clever solution was to conceal them by adding another storey to the existing stone turret and to recycle the heat →



### We love...

...the 6m-high windows in the extension, as they help connect us to the changing seasons'

The living area is a sleek, ultramodern space with a wall of glazing that brings the outdoors in



they produce back into the building's underfloor heating system.

The main tower was sandblasted and the original water tank removed, with new windows punched into the thick stonework. Huge steel frames weighing around 25 tons were then hoisted into place to support the concrete floors, and argon-filled double-glazed units were fitted before foundations could be laid for the new extension of rendered blockwork.

Problems occurred at almost every stage of the project, costs spiralled and the family watched dispiritedly as recently applied render washed off the walls in the rain, setting them back a week. However, after eight long years, the work is finally

complete. 'Since taking on this project, we've become passionate about modern architecture and wanted the interior to be as simple and uncluttered as possible,' says Jannette. 'We chose a seamless white resin floor for the main living spaces and added colour with lighting. The house has a tremendous utilitarian look to it that feels both contemporary and luxurious.'

'We didn't go out for dinner or on holiday during the build, and we lived in our work clothes,' says Russell. 'Sometimes I wished we'd never bought the tower, but the camaraderie of the team kept us going, and the first time we soaked in the roof-top hot tub with its 360° views, we knew it had all been worthwhile.'

## IN DETAIL SUSPENDED FIRES

*Install a striking fireplace, like Russell and Janette did*

**A contemporary suspended fireplace makes a stunning feature in Russell and Janette's open-plan living area.**

- The Focus Gyrofocus wood-burning fire was from Diligence (01364 644790; [diligenceinternational.com](http://diligenceinternational.com)).
- Check with the supplier, an architect or structural engineer to ensure that your ceiling will be strong enough to bear the

weight of this type of fire. A suspension plate should comply with building regulations and HETAS ([hetas.co.uk](http://hetas.co.uk)) requirements, and will usually contain the insulated flue required for installation.

- A non-combustible hearth, at least 12mm thick, is required for suspended wood burners, and should extend 300mm all around the fire front.

## RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

■ **Many alterations can be made under Permitted Development**, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit [planningportal.gov.uk](http://planningportal.gov.uk) and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.

■ **Keep your neighbours informed** at all stages and you might need to obtain party wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at [planningportal.gov.uk](http://planningportal.gov.uk).

■ **For extensions and major remodelling**, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects ([architecture.com](http://architecture.com)) holds a directory of approved architects.

■ **Get at least three quotes for all major purchases**, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.

■ **It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis**. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website ([nfc.co.uk](http://nfc.co.uk)) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.

■ **Remember to factor delays into the schedule** and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.



BEFORE



AFTER

## EXTREME Transformation 2

# 'We added a garden room'

Denise and Clive Wells brought their period cottage into the 21st century with a sweeping glazed extension

**H**aving enjoyed many family holidays in their Devon cottage, Clive and Denise Wells knew they would need to make changes to turn it into a permanent home for their retirement. Situated in a village near Kingsbridge, the house was built in the 17th century, with just one room downstairs and a small first floor. Extended over the years, it now has four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and living room on the ground floor.

The couple wanted a space where they could sit and enjoy the garden, and they found the solution in a magazine article. 'We contacted the company featured and Stuart Bayley from

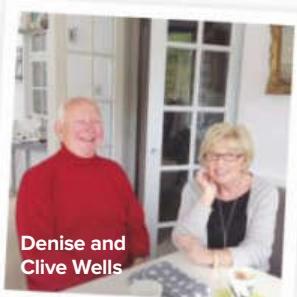
Living Space Architects (01392 270420; [livingspacearchitects.com](http://livingspacearchitects.com)) suggested building a modern extension,' says Denise. 'We loved his design.' The curved single-storey extension echoes the cottage's patio with a sweeping glazed wall and a radial flat roof clad in zinc.

**CAREFUL PLANNING** Stuart worked closely with the conservation officer, and stressed that the new extension would have little impact on the older building. The timber windows were retained and now look out into the extension, while the original external glazed doors from the old living room lead into the new space.

Planning permission was granted and the Wells appointed builder John Oldrieve to do the work, which began in September 2011 and was completed a year later. The patio was lifted and foundations excavated for the curved steel and glass structure, which stands on a partially suspended floor slab and opens onto the new terrace through faceted bifold doors.

The couple paid £624,000 for the property in 2003 and spent £150,000 on the extension. The cottage is now valued at £900,000.

'Building the garden room has transformed our lives,' says Denise. 'We keep the doors open in summer and it's perfect for entertaining. Now everyone wants to spend time in our new extension because not many people have such fabulous views from their own sofa.'



## Trials & triumphs...

### ■ What was the high point?

'Seeing how well the new and old buildings work together.'

### ■ Any low points?

'The four-month delay while the glass doors were made, which held up the build's progress.'

### ■ What was the project saviour?

'Our view of the garden – the extension has created a real indoor/outdoor feel.'

# 'We turned our living room into a kitchen'

It's possible to repurpose space to suit your needs, as the Robinsons discovered by swapping rooms

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



## *Open choices*

The garden room built onto what used to be the living room floods the new kitchen with natural light. Jill and Jim chose a breakfast bar and red tones to create a relaxed space. 'I love the red, but I can paint over it if I want a different look,' says Jill



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom barn conversion in Gilmorton, Leicestershire.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Jill and Jim Robinson.

### WHAT THEY DID

The couple resited their new kitchen to the living room and added an oak-framed garden room to create space for dining and relaxing.

### THE LOOK

Modern country, with a timber ceiling, Shaker-style cabinetry, an oak seating area and splashes of red.

### LESSONS LEARNED

*“Try not to be too sentimental about keeping old, redundant architectural features. It's okay to remove them if doing so gives you a better living space.”*



**THE LAYOUT** A narrow island is positioned between two runs of units, and includes two sinks, cupboards and a seating area. An American-style fridge-freezer sits next to a pull-out larder on the right



**O**nce their three children had flown the nest, Jill and Jim Robinson decided that it was time to remodel and refurbish their home to create a modern layout that suited their needs more. ‘The old kitchen was on the north-facing side of the house and felt dingy,’ Jill explains. ‘The dark oak units we’d inherited from the previous owners felt oppressive, and we lacked worktop and storage space.’

The couple decided to add a small, glazed, oak-framed, garden-room extension to the existing living room, and to relocate the kitchen to this new space on the south side of the house. ‘The aim was to create the large,

bright kitchen with living and dining areas that we’d always wanted,’ says Jill.

A friend recommended a kitchen designer to the couple. ‘When we visited the workshop, we were impressed by the craftsmanship and attention to detail,’ says Jill. ‘Initially, we considered a contemporary design, but as we’re both quite traditional, we decided to opt for a Shaker-style kitchen with some modern details instead.’

Now that the kitchen is complete, Jill is relishing the thought of Christmas. ‘We have a huge family gathering planned and I can’t wait to have them all here,’ she says. ‘My new kitchen is so welcoming, with space for us all to be together. It’s my dream come true.’

### ▲ Quick results

A swan-neck tap with pull-out nozzle is a stylish and functional addition to the island, with a separate tap providing instant boiling water. ‘I use this all the time during the day to fill saucepans and to make hot drinks,’ says Jill



**Clever touch**  
A solid-oak chopping board with a lip slides along the worktop but stays secure when in use

## KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

### WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke units, £15,000; solid oak worktop, £1,020; red glass splashback, £348; all Dale Penney Furniture. For similar worktops, try the Compac 30mm quartz worktop, £408 per sq m, Henderstone. For similar floor tiles, try the Ancient Fortress Corfe, £49.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors. 26 sink, £192; 45 sink, £322; both Cisterna range, Villeroy & Boch. Belfast tap, £299, Franke. PRO3 VAQ Basic boiling water tap, from £850, Quooker. For a similar extractor, try the ELIPLANE80, £230, Elica range, Appliances Direct. Total Control 3 range cooker, from £10,695; DxD stainless steel fridge-freezer, £2,650; both Aga.

Island painted in Pugin Red eggshell, £50.35 for 2.5ltr, Dulux range, Designerpaint. Wall units painted in New White Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr; kitchen walls painted in Pointing Estate Emulsion; garden room walls painted in Dimity Estate Emulsion; both £38 for 2.5ltr; all Farrow & Ball. For similar bar stools, try the Lush chrome, £97.50 each, Atlantic Shopping. For similar pendant lights, try the Flori, from £86 each, Rowen & Wren. For a similar dining table and chairs, try the Wiltshire table with four chairs, £849, The Cotswold Company. Sockerärt jug vase, £7.50, Ikea

FOR DETAILS TURN TO  
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**How we did it**

“We built a glazed extension with patio doors leading onto the garden to create an open-plan room. We also removed a fake fireplace in the living room to free up a wall for a run of units. I wanted an island, but was worried it might dominate, so our designer created a slimline unit with a neat, circular breakfast bar. Work began in spring 2013 and finished in time for Christmas, but we were able to use our old kitchen the whole time. The installation of this kitchen cost £1,787.”

# 'I wanted a bright, versatile space'

Tired of a dark, dingy kitchen? Copy the Porters by opening up a room and decorating it all in white

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



## *The white choice*

The Porters went for a soothing all-white scheme and added new windows and a glazed door to let in as much daylight as possible

Love their  
STYLE?

THE PORTERS' ELICA CIRCUS COOKER HOOD IS FROM APPLIANCECITY.CO.UK £299. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE HOTPOINT HDA65SAB AT AO.COM £299 OR THE NEFF I89DK62N0B FROM JOHN LEWIS £399



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Nineties, detached house in Winslow, Buckinghamshire.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Anne-Lise and Brian Porter.

### WHAT THEY DID

The couple extended at the side of the house and knocked down a wall between the kitchen and living room to create an open-plan space. They also fitted two new windows and a door opening on to the garden.

### THE LOOK

Relaxed country, with an all-white palette and a Scandinavian feel.

### LESSONS LEARNED

*"You have to be relaxed about building work and accept that it takes as long as it takes."*



**THE LAYOUT** The hob is positioned between two windows. The sink is opposite it, behind a partition that separates the kitchen from a living area. The ovens and a built-in fridge-freezer are in a bank of units on the back wall

# What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



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\* Priced kitchen is for units only and does not include the price of any handles, worktops, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Must be purchased in the exact configuration as offered by Wren. No substitutions or alterations can be made.

**wren**  
KITCHENS



Anne-Lise Porter's first impression of the home she shares with husband Brian wasn't good. 'When I saw the kitchen, I was horrified,' she says. 'It was dingy and dirty, with dark oak units and a lino floor. It had just one window, so there wasn't much light, either.' However, she was able to see beyond the dated décor and decided to replace the wall between the kitchen and the living room with a partition to create an open-plan room with zones.

The couple also extended to the side of the house to enlarge the cooking area. 'Being Danish, I wanted a room with lots of light,' says Anne-Lise. 'We also needed a family friendly

space where we could keep an eye on our three grandchildren when they are playing.'

Anne-Lise and Brian decided on a galley layout for practicality. 'The partition between the kitchen and living area is high enough to hide the cooking area when you're sitting in the living space,' says Anne-Lise.

White walls, units, worktops and flooring create a sleek look. The couple maximised natural light by adding new windows on either side of the hob and replacing an existing window with a door opening out to the garden.

This Christmas, Anne-Lise is looking forward to using her new kitchen. 'It's perfect,' she says. 'Brian and I can cook lunch, chat to our guests and watch over our grandchildren all at once.'

#### **Zoned approach**

**The kitchen and living areas are separated by a partition, which hides the cooking pots and dishes from guests sitting in the living area**



## KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

### WHERE TO BUY

For similar **units**, try the Metod with Ringhult white doors, from £74 for a W600mm base unit; Lansa **handles**, £4.50 for two; for a similar **worktop**, try the Fyndig, from £20 for L1,260mm; all Ikea. Olympus **tap**, £350, Franke range, Plumbworld. For a similar **ceramic sink**, try the RL304 CW, £130, Reginox range, Tradingdepot.co.uk. For a similar **double oven**, try the U14M42N3GB, £599, Neff range; for a similar **hob**, try the SE2951TC2, £569, Smeg range; for a similar **cooker hood**, try the Circus HE90, £659, Elica range; all Appliancecity.co.uk. For a similar **built-in microwave**, try the HMT75M551B, £299; for a similar **dishwasher**, try the Series 6 SMS63M22GB; £439; both Bosch range, Ao.com. For a similar **splashback**, try the Matrix Ice, £120 for 600mm x 750mm, Topps Tiles. For similar **floor tiles**, try the Flavium, £20.95 per sq m, Episode Ceramica range, Ceramic Tile Company. Karlstad **sofa**, £279; for similar **pendants**, try the Melodi, £13 each; all Ikea. For a similar **cabinet** (near sofa), try the Lundy two door cabinet, £199, The Cotswold Company

FOR DETAILS TURN TO  
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**In harmony**  
A ceramic sink adds country style and blends seamlessly into the all-white scheme

**How we did it**

 We needed planning permission for the structural changes we wanted to make to the kitchen, so we hired a chartered surveyor. The work took three months, during which time we used the dining room as a kitchen and did the washing up in the bath. The building work cost about £20,000 for the whole ground floor, including the kitchen. Brian fitted the kitchen himself, but we hired a tradesman to do the tiling. Brian tried tiling the kitchen in our old house and I took one look at it and said, 'Never again'. You have to know your limits!

**Go glossy**

Sleek-looking pale units contrast with oak worktops  
**Appleby high-gloss cream with integrated handle kitchen, £1,855 for eight units\***, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



# CREATE YOUR DREAM KITCHEN

No longer just a *practical space* for cooking and doing the dishes, today's kitchen serves many *different functions*. For some, it's the place where *family members* gather to share meals and catch up, while for others, it's a *sociable space* designed for entertaining friends.

Whatever role your kitchen is going to play in your home, B&Q has combined *innovative design* and *impressive craftsmanship* to offer a range of high-quality kitchen styles to suit all budgets.



PICK UP  
a brochure  
in store!



**COOKE**  
**&LEWIS**



# *Discover timeless* **CRAFTSMANSHIP**

*Choose high-quality finishes and durable materials  
with B&Q's Cooke & Lewis stylish kitchens*

When updating a kitchen, there are a few things you need to figure out first. Are you going for a refresh or a complete refit? What do you want from the available space? The best thing to do first is consider who uses the kitchen and what for, then go from there.

Write a list of what frustrates you about your kitchen and what you would like to improve, then create a wish list for your dream room. Planning is key to creating the ideal space for your lifestyle, so invest

plenty of time in doing all-important research before buying so that you can make the most informed decisions.

## *Explore the range*

To help you make your dream kitchen a reality, B&Q has 16 exclusive Cooke & Lewis designs, five of which are featured in the next few pages. Designed using durable materials and timeless finishes, these are built to suit your needs now and for years to come. Cooke & Lewis cabinets are made in Devon, using the finest

materials, including 100% FSC-approved sustainable wood. The doors are made using the latest production technology, and timber materials selected by hand in Italy. B&Q has included a deep wall cabinet to fit full-sized plates, adjustable shelving and a tall cabinet for extra storage space.

Simply decide which style within the family of Cooke & Lewis kitchens suits you and your lifestyle from Appleby, Carisbrooke, Chesterton, Raffello and Woburn. Then all that's left is to pick the appliances and the finishing touches.



### ▲ Shaker chic

The contemporary colour finish brings this traditional Shaker style up to date  
**Carisbrooke Cashmere, from £2,132 for eight units\***, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q

### Rounded off ►

Curved units will add interest and soften the look of a kitchen  
**Carisbrooke Cashmere, from £2,132 for eight units\***, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



*'If white is too stark a colour choice for you, but you still want to keep things light, go for units in a classic grey or beige'*

MICHELA COLLING,  
STYLE EDITOR



**Clean up**  
A moulded sink gives a streamlined look, while a worktop with draining grooves is a smart option

## COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

*Pick the perfect finishing touches*

### Cool shade

Keep it simple with a plain white pendant  
**Tibbon white pendant ceiling light, £35**, B&Q



### Fantastic fake

Get the look of wood for less with this easy-to-install luxury vinyl click floor  
**White wash oak-effect luxury vinyl click flooring, £25 per sq m**, B&Q



### Hot choice

Eight cooking functions and a 57ltr capacity  
**Single multifunction oven CLSMO-60, £260**, Cooke & Lewis range, B&Q



### Swan song

Echo the curved cabinet with this sleek-looking tap  
**Saru pull-down tap, £98**, B&Q

# Make a CLASSIC CHOICE

*Stick to a more traditional style with a solid-oak kitchen*

The Chesterton Solid Oak Classic kitchen from Cooke & Lewis has doors made from solid oak that has been carefully chosen for its quality, sustainability and unique character. Going for these mid-toned wood units will give your kitchen a warm and welcoming feel, while the simple style makes it a classic look that won't date. As well as cabinet storage, the Chesterton Solid Oak Classic has the option of features such as an integrated plate rack and pull-out storage for bottles and jars.

## *Bring it up to date*

While this kitchen is perfectly suited for a home decorated in a traditional style, it will also work well in a more contemporary interior. Simply team the wooden units with white worksurfaces, pale flooring and smart stainless-steel appliances to create a more modern feel. Finish with open shelving and statement lighting.



*'If there's room in your kitchen, have an island fitted to provide extra cupboard space and more room for preparing food'*

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR



## COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

*Pick the perfect finishing touches*



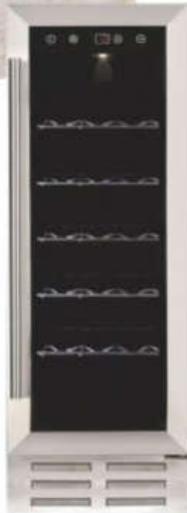
**Get the point**  
For a soft glow and ambience, try under-cabinet lighting

**Olana LV fixed cabinet light, £27 for three, B&Q**



### Luxury buy

Fill it up to have plenty of wine or other chilled drinks on hand for fantastic parties  
**18-bottle stainless-steel-effect wine cooler WC300, £248, Cata range, B&Q**



# Give your kitchen a MODERN LOOK

*Team high-gloss units in an on-trend colour with stylish accessories for an urban-chic feel*

**W**hether you want an unfussy kitchen with simple units or you fancy a modern design that won't date in the future, B&Q has a number of options, including the new Cooke & Lewis Raffello kitchen. Available in five different colours – Anthracite (shown), Aubergine, Cream, Red and White – this high-gloss range is the perfect choice for an urban home.

## Dress it up

The Raffello Slab Anthracite high-gloss kitchen features flat-fronted doors and drawers, which you can team with the handle of your choice. In this dark-grey colourway, the units fit in well with the popular industrial trend. You can

decide to keep the look clean and uncluttered, with smart, streamlined, fitted appliances, dark worktops and minimal accessories, or you could make a real statement with a bold contrast, such as white flooring and worktops, and sleek city styling. Metallic accessories and seating, as well as black utensils, sink and knife block, will help create an eye-catching, urban-chic feel.

## Add a bit of colour

If all that seems a bit stark for your tastes, add some warmth with brushed-copper effect lighting and chef-style copper cookware. Alternatively, you can mix and match the different-coloured unit fronts in the Raffello range for a unique-looking kitchen with a personal touch.



### Stacks of style

Open shelving will provide more storage and will fit into the room's industrial feel

**Five-shelf steel shelving unit, £45, B&Q**



*'Industrial style is a trend that's sticking around. Mix brilliant new buys with vintage finds to create a unique look'*

MICHELA COLLING,  
STYLE EDITOR



## COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

*Pick the perfect finishing touches*

### Cool copper

A low-cost way of adding high-end style  
**Tezz brushed copper effect light shade, £18, Colours range, B&Q**



### Get tough

Create the perfect industrial vibe  
**Colours grey modern stone-effect luxury vinyl click tile flooring, £25 per sq m, B&Q**



### Black magic

Team this stylish matt black sink with a white worktop  
**Roso single bowl composite sink in Volcanic Black, £142, B&Q**

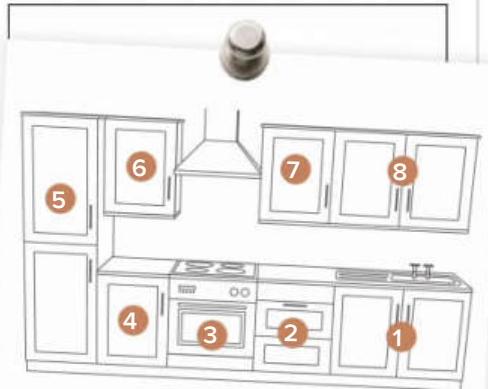
### Pro style

Go for industrial chic with this cool, curved design  
**Tronto metallic black spring-neck tap, £78, Cooke & Lewis range, B&Q**



**Perfect planning**

Make a wish list to work out your storage and socialising needs before designing your kitchen  
**Woburn framed kitchen, from £2,253 for eight units\*, Cooke & Lewis at B&Q**



## PLAN THE BEST DESIGN

*\*Discover what's included in an eight-unit kitchen*

- ① 1,000mm base unit
- ② 500mm multi-drawer base unit
- ③ 600mm built-under oven housing unit
- ④ 500mm base unit
- ⑤ 600mm larder unit
- ⑥ 500mm wall unit
- ⑦ 500mm wall unit
- ⑧ 1,000mm base unit

### ALSO INCLUDED

Base, wall and larder décor end panels; 38mm-thick L3m laminate worktop; cornice; light pelmet and continuous plinth; and handles. Cooke & Lewis kitchens include clad-on panels.

### NOT INCLUDED

Oven, hob, sink and taps.

## For more information...

FOR DETAILS OF B&Q'S KITCHEN RANGES AND YOUR NEAREST STORE, VISIT **DIY.COM**



# Create your ideal KITCHEN

*Turn to B&Q's experts to create your dream room*

**C**hoosing a kitchen can be a daunting process. If you're stuck for inspiration and product ideas, B&Q's design expert consultants can help guide you through your project, starting with a free consultation to plan and personalise your dream kitchen.

### Go online or in store

Using B&Q spaces – a new interactive online design tool that makes designing and project-managing a kitchen easier than ever before – a consultant will help you create your perfect kitchen in minutes, then work with you to refine the

space to suit your needs. To enjoy this service, go to [diy.com/diy/design](#) consultation to book an appointment, or pop in store, remembering to take your room's measurements before going for your consultation.

### Have your kitchen fitted

Once you have designed and bought your kitchen, B&Q's Homefit Installation team can fit it for you. With more than 15 years' experience installing kitchens, the team provides a five-year workmanship guarantee, so you know you're in safe hands every step of the way.

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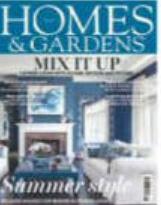
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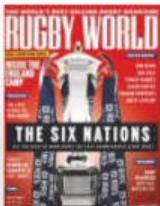
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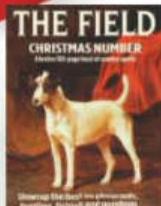
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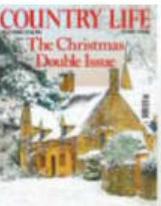
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**FFJ5**



# 'We wanted a chic wetroom'

Like the idea of a luxurious, spa-like space? Copy the Rodgers family and create an Italian-inspired wetroom

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

*Love their  
STYLE?*

THE RODGERS' TRAVERTINE TILES ARE FROM STONE COLLECTION LONDON £. FOR SIMILAR, TRY TOPPS TILES' SANDELWOOD TRAVERTINE ££ OR FIRED EARTH'S OLD TUSCAN TRAVERTINE RANGE £££

**Lustrous finish**  
The velvety looking Venetian polished plaster gives the room a sumptuous feel

<b>WHAT IT COST</b>	
Shower.....	£677
Drainage gulley.....	£233
Basin.....	£350
Basin mixer.....	£125
Specialist plastering....	£2,700
Tiles.....	£300
Radiator.....	£100
Cabinet.....	£200
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£4,685</b>



**M**oving into their Arts and Crafts house seven years ago, Ruth and Paul Rodgers had big plans for the bathroom. 'It had been redesigned in the Eighties and, apart from being very old-fashioned, the woodwork was rotten, the shower was a dark, dank cubicle and there was an impractical three-quarter-size bath,' says Ruth.

The couple decided to dispense with the bath and, inspired by Italian design, made plans for a luxurious wetroom instead. Ruth had seen the finish she wanted for the walls in the lobby of an advertising company. 'Venetian polished plaster has a marble-like lustre that looks like crushed velvet and feels like glass,' she says. 'We chose a deep chocolate brown, which shows off the white basin and chrome fittings beautifully.'

To complement the polished plaster, the floor and shower walls were tiled with tumbled and sealed travertine in a mix of large squares and mosaics. 'Although it's very contemporary, it's got a rustic, Tuscan feel to it,' says Ruth. 'I feel like I'm on holiday every time I take a shower.'

**TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW**  
*Ruth and Paul created their new bathroom*

## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, Arts and Crafts house in Highgate, north London.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Ruth and Paul Rodgers, with their daughter, Georgie, 19. Ruth is a journalist and Paul works in radio.

### WHAT THEY DID

The couple gutted the existing bathroom and had a room within

a room built, providing a seamless box in which to create a wetroom.

### THE LOOK

Luxurious, with moody colours and rough and smooth textures.

### LESSONS LEARNED

*'We should have fitted a hand shower as well as an overhead one. It would have made cleaning the shower area a lot easier.'*



**THE LAYOUT** The basin is on the left of the room, as is the shower, which is opposite the window and is zoned off from the basin by a glass screen



**Rustic contrast**  
Ruth chose tumbled travertine tiles in warm, neutral shades to provide texture and soften the minimalist scheme



**Fabulous fittings**  
The mirrored cabinet and sleek white sanitaryware add a touch of glamour



#### ▲ Cosy corner

A chrome heated towel rail is the only other fitting in the room, while a bentwood chair is a nod to vintage



**How we did it**  
To achieve a streamlined effect, our builders, MG Raffle, built a room within a room, lowering the ceiling and fitting a stud wall, behind which the lighting and plumbing are concealed. As there's no shower tray, a subtle fall had to be built into the new floor to allow the water to run away. The shower screen provides an almost invisible divide between the wet and dry areas. Underfloor heating was installed before specialist plaster company Decor Bristol plastered the walls. The project cost around £3,000 and took about three weeks.

#### BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

For a similar **shower head**, try the Raindance Air 180 with arm, £425, Hansgrohe range; for a similar **basin**, try the Zone Offset, £771; for a similar **basin mixer**, try the 112 wall mounted with plate, £822, Vola range; all CP Hart. Stainless steel channel **drain**, £233, Purus range; for a similar **shower screen**, try the Ostend fixed, £225; both Wetroomstore.com. For a similar **cabinet**, try the stainless steel, £69.97, Vasari range, Plumbworld. **Venetian plaster**, £100 per sq m, Decor Bristol. Travertine tumbled **tiles**, from £27 per sq m, Stone Collection London. For similar **mosaic tiles**, try the Travertine white, £85 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For a similar **radiator**, try the Basics 1110, £109, Bathstore

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# 'We made it ultramodern'

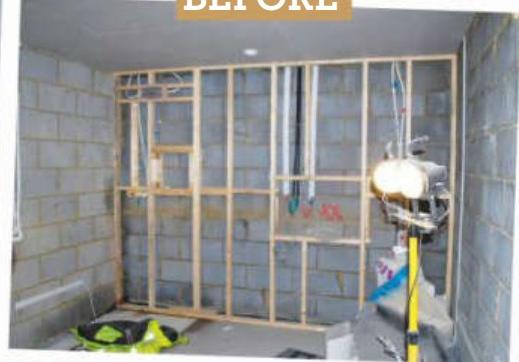
Give your room sleek, contemporary style, like the Cunninghams did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



**Black and white**

The couple chose a monochrome scheme for a high-impact, modern look. A white poured-resin floor helps to create a sense of space

**BEFORE***Love their  
**STYLE?***

THE CUNNINGHAMS' BATHROOM TELEVISION IS FROM TILEVISION £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY BATHROOM TV'S 19IN WATERVUE £ OR TECH2O'S 15IN ££

**WHAT IT COST**

Bath.....	£2,400
Shower.....	£1,638
Basins.....	£2,400
Taps.....	£2,740
Wall tiles.....	£840
Flooring.....	£1,200
Loo.....	£570
Console unit.....	£800
Radiator.....	£500
Mirror.....	£1,100
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£14,188</b>

**TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW**  
Sam and Peter created their new bathroom

**Take the  
60-SECOND TOUR****THE PROPERTY**

A new, five-bedroom detached house in Northampton, Northamptonshire, which the owners built themselves in 2011.

**WHO LIVES HERE**

Sam and Peter Cunningham, with their children, Zach, 14, and Grace, 12.

**WHAT THEY DID**

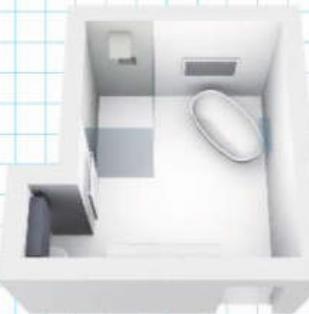
The couple spent 18 months building their house from scratch, taking the opportunity to create their ideal bedroom with an en-suite bathroom.

**THE LOOK**

Streamlined and minimalist, with statement tiling, curvy sanitaryware and plenty of storage space.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

*“It's important to find a good designer who will visit your house and give you lots of ideas.”*



**THE LAYOUT** The loo and a twin-basin vanity unit are to the left of the door. The bath is straight ahead, next to the walk-in shower in the corner

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**F**or Sam and Peter Cunningham, creating their new en-suite bathroom was just a very small part of the bigger job of working on a self-build house – a project that began in 2011. ‘We found a house with land to the side and decided to build the property we wanted,’ says Sam.

The new house presented the couple with the opportunity to create their ideal en-suite. ‘In our previous home, the bathroom was cramped with a useless shower,’ explains Sam. ‘This time we wanted a modern room with a stylish bath and a powerful shower.’

Other must-haves included two basins and a TV. ‘Having two basins stops us getting in

each other’s way,’ says Sam. ‘As for the TV, we love watching it when we have a bath.’

The couple came up with the basic design of the bathroom with the help of a local designer. ‘We chose the colour scheme ourselves – we wanted white and grey to match the tiles we’d chosen,’ says Sam. ‘We added accessories with touches of green, inspired by some Orla Kiely bedding we had. Luckily, we were able to get towels to match.’

The result is a smart space that looks like it belongs in a boutique hotel. ‘This room is a big success,’ says Sam. ‘We love the bath, the freestanding tap and the storage units above the loo. There’s not a thing we’d do differently if we had to start all over again.’ ➤

#### ▲ Neat solution

The loo is cleverly tucked away in the corner of the room so that it’s the last thing you see when you enter the en suite. Above it, Sam had storage fitted to keep clutter at bay



**▲ Simple touches**  
Wall-hung taps and oval  
countertop basins fit in with  
the contemporary scheme

**How we did it**

**“**Knowing we wanted a modern bathroom was a good start, but we couldn't have faced actually planning the room without a designer. We decided to choose a local company called Goodey & Howell, where we were introduced to a brilliant designer. He put various layouts together for us so that we could choose. The building work was done by the company building the rest of the house, and we used the bathroom company's tiler. From start to finish, the room took a month to complete, and it cost around £6,000 to install.

**Starting point**  
The monochrome Orla Kiely print was the original inspiration for the room's colour scheme. 'The shades we've used make the en suite a calm place to be,' says Sam

## BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

### WHERE TO BUY

Napoli **bath**, £2,400; Napoli **basins**, £1,200 each; all Victoria & Albert range; I line modular **console unit**, £800; **mirror**, £1,100; both Utopia range; basin **taps**, £525 each; **bath/shower mixer**, £1,690; **shower control and head**, £938; all Crosswater range; Melyn **shower screen**, £700; Jersey ceramic **wall tiles**, £60 per sq m, Porcelanosa range; Essence **towel radiator**, £500, Bauhaus range; **loo** and **flush plate**, £570; all Goodey & Howell. Poured resin **floor**, from £120 per sq m, Puur Floors. 22in **television**, £845, TileVision. For a similar **table**, try the Funky white, £49.95, Natural Living. For similar **bath towels**, try the Flower Abacus, £25 each, Orla Kiely

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per sq m, Topps Tiles

# Work the latest TRENDS IN TILES

*Impress your house guests with a chic new look from  
Topps Tiles' high-quality, fashion-forward ranges*

With Christmas just around the corner, the race is on to get our homes spruced up and ready for visitors. Perhaps your kitchen floor is an eyesore, you'd like to redo a downstairs loo or an en suite isn't quite complete – whatever your plans, a visit to Topps Tiles will provide all the practical advice and inspiration you need to make improvements with confidence.

## Try out different looks

With the biggest selection of quality tiles sourced from around the world, Topps Tiles is sure to have the perfect choice for

your project. Whether you're sure of the style you want or don't know where to start, it's worth trying the Tile Visualiser facility in store or at [toppstiles.co.uk](http://toppstiles.co.uk). Simply pick a room that looks as close in layout to your own and you'll be able to see how more than 1,300 styles of tile might look in situ. It's a great way to get a feel for the scale and impact of different designs, from large-format neutrals to patchworks of pattern.

If you think imitation stone and wood tiles are unconvincing, check out the ones at Topps Tiles. New technology is making it possible to reproduce the texture and

look of natural materials more realistically than ever. Both the Silvabirch range and Amazon-inspired Kapok porcelain tile, for example, allow you to bring a forest feel into your bathroom, where natural wood is not usually recommended.

## Visit your nearest store

Topps Tiles' friendly in-store team can give you guidance on every aspect of your interior project, right down to what tools and grout colour to use with your tiles. You'll also find exciting new displays and can save up to a third on selected tiles in the Topps Tiles autumn promotion.



*'Make new tiles feel extra special with underfloor heating – the Warmup under-tile heating systems available at Topps Tiles have a lifetime guarantee'*

AMY CUTMORE,  
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR



#### Hall of fame

Make an entrance with this intricate pattern  
**FS York tiles, £67.85 per sq m, Topps Tiles**



#### Very Moorish

Add an exotic feel with these ornate beauties  
**FS Salisbury tiles, £67.85 per sq m, Topps Tiles**



#### Fab fake

Looks exactly like wood  
**Alpine Shimmer tiles, £92.23 per sq m, Silvabirch range, Topps Tiles**

## STYLE FILE

*Discover the three key looks we love this season*

■ **WALK THE PLANK** Long floorboard-style tiles are big news this autumn, enhancing the rustic feel of wood-effect porcelains.

■ **TRY FAUX STONE** The Regional Reflections ceramic tiles mimic quarried stones, such as riven slate and sandstone, to stunning effect.

■ **PICK A BOLD PATTERN** Colourful, intricately decorated tiles are huge right now, mixing influences from all over the globe.



#### On board

Try mixing the three colourways  
**Nayara Polished, £69.97 per sq m, Topps Tiles**



#### Rock star

Inspired by limestone  
**Regional Reflections Ashington, £59.99 per sq m, Topps Tiles**



#### Easy mix

Each single tile has four motifs  
**Stamford Tile, £67.60 per sq m, Topps Tiles**

## For more information...

FIND DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE AND USE THE VISUALISER TO TRY OUT NEW LOOKS AT [TOPPSSTILES.CO.UK](http://TOPPSSTILES.CO.UK)

**Topps Tiles**

# Simple Solutions

## MAKE AND GIVE PICKLES

Crunchy pickles are a store-cupboard essential at Christmas. Beautifully presented, they make a thoughtful, inexpensive gift that doesn't require skill in the kitchen

Pickles are perfect for spicing up leftovers, as part of a buffet or just as a late-night snack snaffled straight from the jar. Simple to make, you can eat them straight away, but they're even tastier if left to mature for a couple of weeks.

### SPEEDY PICKLING VINEGAR

Make this all-purpose pickling liquid first, then use it as a base for the other recipes. This makes 800ml and the ingredients cost around £4.

- 1 Put the following ingredients in a large stainless-steel pan: 500g granulated sugar; 350ml cider vinegar; 350ml white wine vinegar; 10g fresh root ginger (in chunks); zest of 1 large orange; 2 bay leaves; 1tbsp whole allspice berries; 1 cinnamon stick, and 1tsp cloves.
- 2 Stir well with a wooden spoon until all the sugar has dissolved.
- 3 Put on a high heat and simmer for five minutes, stirring. Leave to cool.
- 4 Using a sieve, a jelly bag or muslin in a funnel, strain out the spices.

### PICKLED ONION RINGS

Easier to serve – and eat – than whole pickled onions, you can lift the slices out of the jar with a fork

and add them to sandwiches. Makes two 1ltr jars and costs around £5.

- 1 Slice 1kg peeled brown onions into fine rings, put them in a sieve and pour a kettleful of boiling water over them to blanch them slightly. Rinse them in cold water, give them a gentle shake and leave to dry for 10 minutes.
- 2 Divide the onion rings between the sterilised jars. Stir 1tbsp sea salt into the pre-made pickling vinegar (left) until dissolved, then pour the liquid into the jars to 2cm below the rim. Seal the jars and label them.

**TIP** Use red rather than brown onions for a milder result, or throw in a few dried red chillies for a spicier version.

### PICKLED RED CABBAGE

Sweet and full of flavour, this is the perfect partner for cold turkey and winter stews. This recipe makes two 1ltr jars and costs around £5.

- 1 Sprinkle 1kg shredded red cabbage with 2tbsp sea salt and leave it in a colander over the sink for an hour (the purplish-blue water it releases will stain, so take care).
- 2 Rinse the cabbage in cold water and let it drip-dry for 10 minutes.
- 3 Pack the cabbage into sterilised jars, using a spoon to compress it if

necessary, then add the pickling vinegar to within 2cm of the rim. Seal the jars and label them.

**TIP** Add a splash of red wine and 1tbsp yellow mustard seeds to the cabbage for a flavour boost.

### PICKLED PEARS

Delicious served with strong blue cheese, such as Stilton. Makes one 1ltr jar and costs around £6.

- 1 Peel 1kg conference pears and cut them into quarters, lengthways, then remove the cores and stems.
  - 2 Place the cut pears in a stainless-steel saucepan and cover with the pickling vinegar. Bring to the boil.
  - 3 After 10 minutes' cooking, remove the pears using a slotted spoon and place them in a sterilised jar.
  - 4 Simmer the vinegar for 10 minutes to reduce, then turn the heat off. Allow the vinegar to cool slightly, then pour it over the pears leaving a 2cm gap at the top of the jar. Seal and label.
- TIP** Gently push a few star anise into the jar, keeping them close to the sides so they are visible through the glass.

**Note**...Once home-made pickles have been opened, store them in the fridge and eat them within one month.

### 5 WAYS TO PRESENT YOUR PICKLES



**VINTAGE STYLE**  
Ball Mason jar (490ml), £11.99 for six, Lakeland



**LABELLED WITH LOVE**  
Hemsmak adhesive labels, £1.50 for 32, Ikea



**RIBBONS AND BOWS**  
'Merry Christmas' ribbon, £1 for a L3m roll, Wilko



**CRATE IDEA**  
Two jar gift crate, £6.99, Abraxas Cookshop



**READY TO EAT**  
Olive wood pickle fork, £2.65, Period Features

## TRY THESE VARIATIONS

**\* COURGETTES** Follow the red-cabbage method, adding 1tsp turmeric to the jar. These go well with crumbly Cheddar cheese.

**\* GARLIC CLOVES** Peel the cloves but don't slice them, leave them whole, then follow the onion-rings method. Pickled garlic is delicious as a topping on pizza.

**\* CUCUMBER** Use a potato peeler to cut thin, delicate ribbons, then follow the red-cabbage method. It's tasty with smoked salmon and some fresh dill.

**\* CARROTS** Cut carrots into matchsticks, add strips of fresh ginger and follow the onion-rings method. Try adding to stir-fries.

**\* Tip** To sterilise jars, wash them in hot, soapy water, rinse them, then place on their sides (without the rubber seals) in the oven at 120°C for 20 minutes



Get pickling, then give the jars to friends and family  
Disc seal 1ltr Kilner jars, £8.99 for three; clip-top 500ml Kilner preserving jars, £8.99 for three; swing-top presentation bottle, £3.48; all Lakeland



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT  
[housetohome.co.uk/christmas](http://housetohome.co.uk/christmas)

# GET THE HOUSE CHRISTMAS-READY

Your head might be full of gift lists and school concert dates, but it's worth checking off these basics so you enjoy a smooth-running yule

Use this check list in the run-up to Christmas to get your home shipshape and fully functional before your first guests arrive.

## KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

- ★ Do a stocktake of pots and pans to check you have everything you need to cook Christmas dinner.
- ★ Work out the size of roasting tin you'll need for the turkey, and that it will all fit in the oven.
- ★ Audit crockery, cutlery and glasses.
- ★ Dig out and launder seasonal table linen, so that it's ready to use.
- ★ Remove anything past its best from the fridge and give the fridge a good clean in preparation for refilling it.
- ★ Check that you have enough tinfoil and clingfilm to cope with leftovers.
- ★ Stock up on basics, such as tea, coffee, sugar, cereal and condiments – the stuff that gets forgotten when you're focused on the turkey and pud.

## UTILITY ROOM

- ★ Restock your cleaning products, not forgetting washing powder, dishwasher tablets, rinse aid and salt.
- ★ Buy extra kitchen paper and loo roll.
- ★ Invest in an all-purpose stain remover (try White Wonder cleaning cream, £4.97, Lakeland) so you'll be ready for any spilling mishaps.

- ★ Buy reserves of essentials, such as light bulbs, candles, tealights, batteries, pet food and cat litter.

## HALLWAY/COAT CUPBOARD

- ★ Declutter and create a space for guests' coats, shoes and muddy boots.
- ★ Hunt down umbrellas and keep them handy for guests when they're going to and from their cars.

## LIVING ROOM

- ★ Give your living space a deep clean before putting up Christmas decorations and the tree – it's harder to dust once everything's in place.
- ★ Put away ornaments to create surface space for festive decorations and for guests to put their drinks down. Do you need more coasters?
- ★ Give upholstery and cushions a good vacuum, getting rid of any pet hair and crumbs.
- ★ Where will everyone sit? Beg, borrow or steal extra chairs, or use pouffes and beanbags as a stopgap.
- ★ Make the room smell nice – wash pet beds to get rid of that doggy smell and burn some scented candles.

## BATHROOM

- ★ Give the bathroom a thorough deep clean and declutter shelves to make space for holiday guests' things.



Sleigh bed, £999; Penguin double duvet set, £40; throws, from £60 each; cushions, from £16 each; all BHS

- ★ Make sure you have enough towels to go round for everyone, and get in basic toiletries, such as toothbrushes or shampoo, for guests who might have forgotten to pack their own.
- ★ Check your first-aid kit and restock the essentials – especially painkillers, indigestion and diarrhoea remedies, and treatments for colds and flu.
- ★ Almost every bathroom has a quirk, like a stiff tap or a dodgy loo flush, so get it fixed before your guests arrive.
- ★ Put a nightlight in the bathroom so guests don't have to switch a light on to visit the loo in the dead of night.

## GUEST BEDROOM

- ★ Tidy and clean the room, making space for guests' belongings.
- ★ Put hooks on the back of the door to create extra hanging space.
- ★ Make the bed up before they arrive and cover it to keep it dust-free.
- ★ Tell guests where to find pillows, blankets and hot-water bottles.
- ★ Check all light bulbs are working.
- ★ Put out a travel hairdryer.
- ★ Supply a few books or magazines in the room for bedtime reading.

## 3 OF THE BEST TABLEWARE BASICS



**PLATE UP**  
Mix in with your best set  
White porcelain, £30 for a 12-piece set, Sainsbury's



**CLASSIC CUTLERY**  
Set a table in style  
Columbus cutlery, £10 for a 16-piece set, Wilko



**SIMPLE GLASSES**  
In case you need extras  
Timeless Classic glasses, £5 for four, Tesco Direct

\* **Tip** Give everyone a job, such as putting rubbish out or cleaning empty glasses and mugs, so you have less to do



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT  
[housetohome.co.uk/christmas](http://housetohome.co.uk/christmas)

Rethink your festive dining furniture  
Extending dining table, £350; dining chairs, £180 for two; both Loxley Grey range; accessories from a selection; all Dunelm

**Tempting table**

Give your table a festive makeover to create a magical meal that all the family will remember



Soft cushions  
and throws will  
make lovely gifts

## MAKE SHOPPING EASY THIS YEAR

*Take the hassle out  
of gift buying*

■ **FIND GIFT INSPIRATION**

Houseology is brimming with festive inspiration, with a gift guide that's arranged to ensure finding the perfect present is as easy as possible, plus everything can be gift wrapped, too.

■ **ENJOY FREE DELIVERY**

Houseology offers free UK delivery on goods that cost more than £70 (excluding rugs, furniture, lighting or mirrors) and it has a no-quibble return policy.



Layer white china  
with red and white  
linens for a Scandi vibe

## Enjoy 10% off online

Houseology is offering Ideal Home readers 10% off orders placed online until 31 December 2015, using the code HH210 at the checkout. For terms and conditions, visit [houseology.com](http://houseology.com)

## For more information...

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT  
HOUSEOLOGY AND ITS PRODUCTS  
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**Houseology**



# Entertain in style THIS CHRISTMAS

*Transform your home for the festivities with  
gorgeous seasonal buys from Houseology*

**C**reating the perfect atmosphere for friends and family to enjoy at Christmas is part of the fun of the festive season. Be it decorating the tree, setting a beautiful table or decking out the hallway, dressing your home for the celebrations is an event that can be enjoyed by all the family and will be appreciated by your holiday visitors.

### Decorate in style

If you're searching for decorating inspiration, Houseology has plenty of homeware buys and Christmas decorations to help you create the festive look you want, be it classic and traditional, Scandi or contemporary. In addition to exclusive furniture, lighting and accessories, you can

find beautiful crockery, cutlery, glasses and serveware designed to help you make your Christmas table a sight to behold and worthy of a fabulous festive feast.

### Buy perfect presents

As well as everything you need to transform your home, Houseology is also the place to look for beautiful gifting ideas that you won't find anywhere else. Browse online to find presents designed to put a smile on the face of whoever you plan to surprise.

With products from more than 80 top brands available, there's a wide range to choose from, whether you are looking for something for Grandma, Mum or Dad. It's also ideal for creating your own Christmas wish list to hand out to friends and family.

# Tackle a task... Make lighting sparkle

Your light fittings gather dust and dirt like the rest of your home, so give them a good clean to ensure they shine brightly to create the perfect ambience

## ESSENTIAL KIT

- Kitchen towel
- Microfibre cloths
- Newspaper/towels
- Feather duster
- Soft-brush vacuum attachment
- Glass cleaner

Help light reflect off sparkling decorations by cleaning your fittings

## 1 GET THE BASICS RIGHT

Always ensure a light is switched off before cleaning it – unplug from the wall socket for a lamp and turn off ceiling lights at the fuse box. Let bulbs cool before removing them.

## 2 DEAL WITH PENDANTS

Remove glass and plastic shades, and soak in warm, soapy water for 10 minutes. Wash gently, rinse and dry with a soft microfibre cloth. Polish the fitting and bulb with a dry microfibre cloth.

## 3 CLEAN CHANDELIER

Place newspaper or towels under the chandelier and stuff some kitchen towel into the sockets to keep them dry. Dust the fitting, spray with glass cleaner, then leave to drip-dry.

## 4 TACKLE LAMPSHADES

Wipe beaded shades with a soft, damp cloth. Wash glass and plastic ones in warm, soapy water, rinse and then dry. Vacuum fabric and cane shades with a soft attachment. Wipe metal ones with a soft, damp cloth, then polish dry. Silk and delicate fabric ones will need professional cleaning.

## 5 FOCUS ON SPOTLIGHTS

Remove lenses and covers, and place in warm, soapy water. Scrub the dirt off, then dry with a soft microfibre cloth.



## TOP TRICKS TO Efficient lighting

1

As you clean the fittings, check for breaks, and get them repaired if needs be

2

Never use a damp cloth to clean light bulbs, as it can damage them

3

Is there a fitting you can't dismantle? Get advice

4

Save energy by swapping old standard bulbs for energy-saving ones, which are measured in lumens. The new conversions are: 25W = 220+ lumens, 40W = 400+ lumens, 60W = 700+ lumens, 100W = 1300+ lumens

## 3 of the best TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Keep your lights shining brightly with these useful buys



### Reach out

Get to high fittings with an extendable duster  
Telescopic feather duster, Perigot range, John Lewis



### Crystal clear

A spray-on cleaner is vital if you want sparkly chandeliers  
Mint glass cleaning spray, Method



### Soft touch

Gently remove dust from lampshades with a handy vacuum attachment  
Soft dusting brush, Dyson



EARLY  
BIRD OFFER  
SAVE  
£200\*

# The Perfect Gift This Christmas

Treat yourself or a loved one to a place on KLC My Design School

## Design Your Own Home 15 February – 18 March 2016

**M**y Design School at KLC is an exciting online interior design course that offers a new, effortless way to learn, enabling you to gain design inspiration at times to suit you.

Engaging, immersive and highly enjoyable, this course makes the perfect gift for a friend or loved one. Our course tutor and special guest experts guide students through their interiors project, while a welcoming online community allows for

the sharing of ideas with fellow course students.

*Design Your Own Home* shows students how professional stylists work, while helping them develop their personal style.

Students will be taken through the design process from initial concepts to a completed scheme. Subjects covered include colour, textiles, lighting, accessories, planning and sourcing.

### ABOUT KLC SCHOOL OF DESIGN

KLC School of Design is world renowned for the quality of its Interior Design training, offering a range of qualifications and flexible study methods for over 30 years.

**My  
Design  
School**

at KLC

**Course costs £199 when you book using code IH1115, saving £200\***  
**BOOK NOW Visit [klc.co.uk](http://klc.co.uk) or call 020 7376 3377**

Try something new...

# MIX A CLASSIC COCKTAIL

You can leave the fancy stuff to bartenders, but here are three basic cocktails everyone can learn to make

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Want to treat your party guests to a sophisticated tipple this holiday season? Frankie Snobel, mixologist and founder of cocktail company Tipplesworth, shares step-by-step instructions of how to make three delicious classics. All of these recipes make one cocktail.

## 1 CLASSIC MARTINI

There are many claims on the invention of James Bond's favourite tipple. Also referred to as a martinez or a martini in the past, the name 'martini' stuck in the 20th century, and this is what we all now call the classic combination of gin and dry vermouth.

### You will need

- Martini glass ■ Ice ■ 50ml Sipsmith London dry gin ■ 10ml (2 barspoons/teaspoons) Blackdown Silverbirch vermouth ■ Strainer
- 2 olives ■ Cocktail sticks

### How to make it

1 Chill the glass with some ice. 2 Pour the gin and vermouth into another glass. Stir for 45 seconds to ensure it's mixed but not agitated. 3 Empty the ice out of the martini glass and strain the gin mixture into it. 4 Pierce a

couple of olives with a cocktail stick and pop into your martini.

## 2 MARGARITA

The true origin of this famous citrus-flavoured cocktail with a kick isn't known, but it was definitely born in Mexico and started showing up in bars worldwide in the Thirties.

### You will need

- Slice of lime, 25ml freshly squeezed lime juice, plus a lime wedge ■ Glass tumbler ■ Sea salt ■ Ice ■ 50ml Ocho Blanco tequila ■ 25ml Merlet triple sec ■ 5ml (1 barspoon/teaspoon) agave syrup ■ Cocktail shaker

### How to make it

1 Using a slice of lime, wet the rim of the glass, then roll its outer edge into sea salt. Fill the glass with ice. 2 Pour the tequila, triple sec, lime juice and syrup into a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake well. 3 Strain the mixture into your tumbler and garnish with the wedge of lime.

## 3 BLOODY MARY

It is said that, when vodka arrived in Paris in the Twenties, Fernand 'Pete' Petiot, bartender at Harry's New York



Bar in the French capital, found it rather tasteless, so he decided to mix it with tinned tomato juice and seasoning. According to various sources the drink was named 'Bloody Mary' either after Mary Tudor's bloody reign or after a barmaid at a notorious Chicago saloon called Bucket of Blood.

### You will need

- Slice of lemon and 12.5ml freshly squeezed lemon juice ■ Collins glass (a tall tumbler) ■ Celery salt ■ Ice ■ 50ml Chase English potato vodka ■ 100ml pressed tomato juice ■ 4 dashes of Tabasco sauce ■ 4 dashes of Worcestershire sauce ■ Stick of celery

### How to make it

1 Using the slice of lemon, wet the rim of the glass, then roll the glass's outer edge in a dish of celery salt and fill with ice. 2 Pour in all the rest of the ingredients, plus a pinch of celery salt, and stir well. If you fancy a spicier kick, grate  $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of fresh horseradish root into it. 3 Garnish with celery.

## SHOP FOR THE ESSENTIAL KIT



**WELL MEASURED**  
Gold plated cocktail measure, £12.50, Oliver Bonas



**MASH IT UP**  
Bar craft cocktail muddler, £8.99, Kitchen Craft



**ALL IN ONE**  
Mini Martini kit, £19.90,  
Tipplesworth range, John Lewis



**SHAKE IT**  
Stainless steel cocktail set,  
£21.99, Lakeland



# Take a moment JUST FOR YOU

*Sit back, relax and recharge with the delicious new range of teas from Whittard of Chelsea*

**A**mid the flurry of shopping for gifts, flitting between parties and decking the house in its festive finery, December can all too easily become one of the most tiring months of the year. Thankfully, Whittard of Chelsea has launched The Century of Tea, a collection of 100 teas to help you recover from the Christmas bustle, and revel in a quiet moment with a soothing brew.

## Discover a new favourite

Put a spring in your morning step with the delicious Tippy Assam – its complex flavour makes it a perfect alternative to traditional English Breakfast. Later in the day, bring a little ceremony to your afternoon cuppa

with Whittard's delicate Jasmine tea. This fragrant brew is made by layering jasmine on green tea leaves overnight, then refreshing the flowers every morning for a unique and authentic taste. Finally, wind down on a chilly winter evening with the Apple and Elderflower variety, perfumed with liquorice, rosehip, hibiscus and rose petals.

## Make time for tea

Having sourced tea since 1886, Whittard is famed for its expert knowledge, rich history and unique, hand-crafted blends. So whether you're partial to a timeless classic or fancy trying something new, there's never been a better time to escape the festive fanfare and delight in a calming cup of tea.

**Sweet sensation**  
Enjoy an afternoon treat with a delicious infusion of apple and elderflower

## MAKE TIME FOR A CUPPA

*Let these teas get you through the day*



### Tippy Assam

Rise and shine with this rich choice that's great for breakfast  
**Tippy Assam loose leaf tea, £6, Whittard**



### Jasmine

Indulge in the afternoon with these gently fragranced large leaf tea pyramids  
**Jasmine tea loose leaf pyramids, £6, Whittard**



### Apple & Elderflower

Unwind with a delicate, caffeine free option as the evening draws in  
**Apple and Elderflower tea, £7 for a bottle, Whittard**

## OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU

Take this page to your nearest Whittard store for a free gift. Simply pick up a caddy and choose a tea from our Signature collection. **CODE: 15121**

**For full terms and conditions, visit [whittard.co.uk](http://whittard.co.uk)**



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**Whittard**  
CHELSEA 1886

# In the KITCHEN

This month, we pick great foodie gifts, try a recipe for honeycomb, indulge in delicious panettone and compare smoked salmon. Roll on Christmas...

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

## To-do list for DECEMBER

**EAT** a slice of Classic Gran Galup panettone, £16.90 for 1kg, Natoora. It's light and fluffy, and makes a delicious alternative to rich fruit cake.

**DRINK** Les Pionniers NV Champagne, £16.99, The Co-operative. Made by Piper Heidsieck Champagne house, it's a regular award-winner.

**TREAT** someone to two new Little Leon books – *Sweet Treats* and *Lunchbox* (£6.99 each, Conran), from Leon. They'll be great stocking fillers for a foodie.

Clementines will add the taste and smell of Christmas to any dish – try adding their juice to a glass of fizz or grate the zest into cranberry sauce. For recipes, visit [goodtoknow.co.uk](http://goodtoknow.co.uk)

Try a new taste...

## HONEYCOMB

Also known as hokey-pokey or cinder toffee, honeycomb is crunchy, bubbly textured toffee. Crumble it over ice cream for a delicious topping, or give chunks of it as a gift – simply pop a few plain or chocolate-dipped pieces into vintage tins or clear cellophane bags tied with ribbon.

**HOW TO MAKE** Grease a baking sheet with vegetable oil. Place 75g caster sugar in a pan with 2tbsp golden syrup. Warm over a low heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved. Increase the heat and boil until the mixture turns golden – don't let it get too dark or the honeycomb will taste bitter. Remove the pan from the heat, quickly whisk in 2tsp bicarbonate of soda (the mixture will bubble up) and immediately pour it onto the oiled tray. Allow to cool and set before breaking into pieces. Store in an airtight container.



Honeycomb is quick and easy to make – use it in a dessert or give as a gift

### 3 of the best FLAVOURED SMOKED SALMON

#### Herby twist

Marinated in a Russian recipe of beetroot and dill  
Romanov smoked Scottish salmon (180g), Bleiker's Smokehouse



£7.50



£4.99

#### Winter spices

Cured with cloves, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, lemon, orange and port  
Christmas spiced Scottish smoked salmon (100g), Waitrose



£9.50

#### Taste of the sea

Award-winning Irish organic salmon sprinkled with seaweed flakes  
Cold smoked organic salmon with seaweed (160g), Burren Smokehouse

## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Take your pick from a range of gorgeous hampers filled with nuts, dried fruit, chocolate, honey and coffee

Ready-made or bespoke hampers, Carpo



## IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Open festive booze with a fun bird-shaped corkscrew

£29.95



£14.99



#### Parrot power

Tactile, sturdy and pocket-sized, this is made from plastic and cast aluminium

Parrot sommelier corkscrew, Alessi range, John Lewis

#### Exotic cockatoo

Practical and easy to use in ombré-shaded brushed aluminium  
Corkatoo corkscrew, TheLittleBoysRoom range, Notonthehighstreet.com



Clean the toughest food first time.



Removes grease\*  
from your filter.



LOVES THE  
IMPOSSIBLE

\*For limescale removal use Fairy dishwasher cleaner.

# *Make a traditional* CHRISTMAS LUNCH

'Tis the season to pull out all the stops and serve a delicious festive feast that's packed with flavour



Serve friends and family a succulent turkey with all the trimmings

## *Menu*

ALL RECIPES SERVE 6

### STARTER

Mushroom toasties

### MAINS

Roast turkey with polenta stuffing

Beetroot, potato and Taleggio gratin

### SIDES

Chipolatas with bacon

Roasted carrots and parsnips

Perfect roast potatoes

Sautéed sprouts, sugar snaps and beans

Cranberry sauce

### DESSERT

Extra-fuity Christmas pudding

## Roast turkey with polenta stuffing

**TAKES 10MIN, PLUS UP TO 4HR IN THE OVEN AND UP TO 1HR RESTING**

- 50g butter ■ 4.5-5.5kg turkey
- 500g sausagemeat ■ 3tbsp chopped parsley ■ ½tsp chopped thyme
- ½tsp chopped sage ■ 1tsp lemon juice ■ 1tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 50g polenta ■ 2tbsp cranberry sauce ■ 250ml white wine ■ Bay leaves and sprigs of thyme, to garnish
- FOR THE GRAVY** ■ 3tbsp plain flour ■ 4tbsp brandy ■ 850ml turkey or vegetable stock

**1** Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Rub the butter all over the turkey and season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Combine the sausagemeat, parsley, thyme, sage, lemon juice and zest, polenta and cranberry sauce. Season with salt and black pepper, then stuff inside the neck cavity of the bird, saving any that is left over to make stuffing balls (cook these later with the bacon-wrapped chipolatas, below right).

**2** Place the turkey in a roasting tin and put in the oven for 20min, then turn down the heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Pour in the white wine and 200ml water, then roast, covered with foil, for 40min per kg, basting occasionally. The turkey is cooked when a meat thermometer reads 75°C, or the juices run clear when a metal skewer is inserted into the thickest part of the thigh.

**3** Remove the turkey from the oven and set aside on a platter to rest in a warm place, loosely covered in foil, for up to 1hr. Strain the pan juices into a jug. Leave to cool while the turkey is resting, so the fat rises to the top.

**4** Skim off 3tbsp fat and put it in the tin with the flour. Cook over a very low heat for 2min, stirring. Slowly add the brandy and stock to the tin, whisking until smooth. Skim the remaining fat off the turkey juices in the jug. Stir the juices into the gravy. Bring to the boil and simmer for 2-3min until thickened. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour into a warm gravy boat.

**5** To serve the turkey, garnish it with bay leaves and sprigs of thyme.

## Mushroom toasties

**TAKES 15MIN**

- 1tbsp sunflower oil ■ 25g butter
- 750g mixed mushrooms, sliced ■ 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 thyme stalks, leaves picked
- 4tbsp dry sherry ■ 1 ciabatta loaf, cut into 12 slices ■ Olive oil, for brushing ■ 50g wild rocket ■ 30g mature Cheddar, shaved ■ Balsamic vinegar, for drizzling

**1** Heat half the sunflower oil and half the butter in a pan, add half the mushrooms and cook on a high heat

for 5min until golden. Remove to a plate and repeat with the remaining oil, butter and mushrooms. Put all the cooked mushrooms back in the pan and add the garlic, thyme and sherry. Simmer for a few min until the alcohol has cooked off.

**2** Brush the slices of bread with olive oil on both sides, and grill for a few min on each side. Place two slices on each serving plate. Top with the mushrooms, rocket and cheese, and drizzle on balsamic vinegar to serve.



For a good mixture of mushrooms, try using oyster, chestnut and portobello varieties

## Chipolatas with bacon

**TAKES 5MIN PLUS 30MIN IN THE OVEN**

- 12 streaky bacon rashers
- 12 chipolatas

**1** Wrap a bacon rasher around each chipolata, tucking the ends of the rasher in to prevent it coming loose.

**2** Place the wrapped chipolatas in a roasting tin lined with greaseproof paper. If you have made stuffing balls,

place them in the tin now as well. Once the turkey has come out of the oven, turn the heat up to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6, then cover the chipolata tin with foil and place in the oven.

**3** After 10min remove the foil. After another 10min, turn the sausages and stuffing balls. Cook for a further 10min until cooked through.



1980

1990

2000

2010

2020



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## Beetroot, potato & Taleggio gratin

TAKES 20MIN PLUS 1HR 10MIN IN THE OVEN

■ 600g waxy potatoes, peeled and very thinly sliced ■ 1 garlic clove, finely chopped ■ 6 thyme stalks, leaves picked ■ 300g fresh beetroot, scrubbed and thinly sliced ■ 250ml crème fraîche ■ 250ml milk ■ 5tbsp fresh white breadcrumbs ■ 100g Taleggio cheese, diced ■ 30g Parmesan, finely grated ■ 35g butter, softened

**1** Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and add the potato slices. As soon as the water returns to the boil, drain the potatoes. Refresh under cold water, drain again and spread out to dry on kitchen paper or on a clean tea towel.

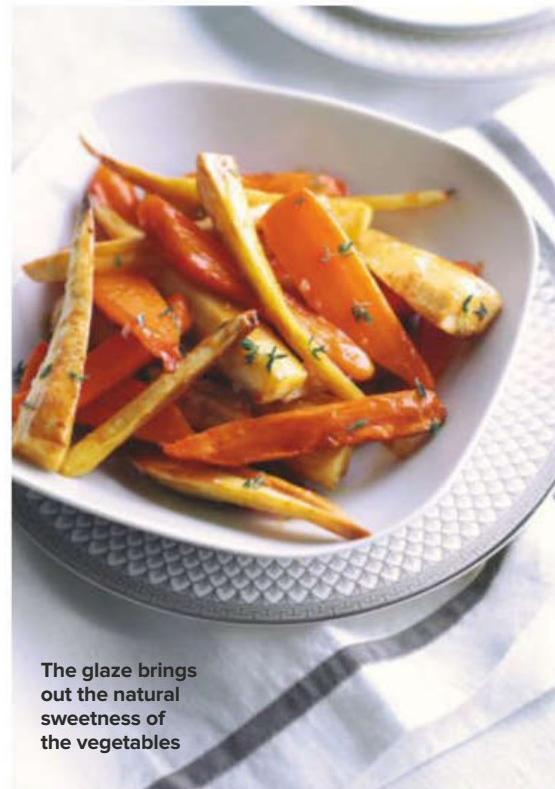
**2** Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Sprinkle the garlic and a little thyme into a greased 20cm x 30cm gratin dish. Arrange half of the potato slices, overlapping, in the dish and season well. Cover with the beetroot and a little more thyme.

**3** Mix the crème fraîche and milk, pour half over the beetroot, then season. Top with another layer of potato and pour over the remaining milk mixture.

**4** Mix the breadcrumbs, remaining thyme and the two cheeses. Sprinkle over the top of the dish and dot with butter. Bake for 1hr 10min, until the gratin is golden brown, and the cream bubbling up around the edges.



You could also make this to have on Boxing Day with leftover turkey



The glaze brings out the natural sweetness of the vegetables

## Roasted carrots & parsnips

TAKES 45MIN

■ 500g carrots, halved or quartered lengthways ■ 500g parsnips, halved or quartered lengthways ■ 2tbsp vegetable oil ■ 6 thyme stalks, leaves picked, plus extra to garnish ■ 25g butter ■ 25g sugar

**1** Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Put the carrots and parsnips in a roasting tin with the oil and thyme, and season with salt and black pepper. Roast for 30–40min, until tender.

**2** Melt the butter and sugar in a heavy-based pan, and cook for 5min over a medium heat, stirring to prevent the mixture sticking. Add 1tsp sea salt flakes. Drizzle the caramel mixture over the roasted vegetables, then return to the oven for a few minutes. Serve topped with extra thyme.

### Cook's tip

For the beetroot gratin, try using medium-sized Charlotte potatoes

**Cook's tip** Make extra roast potatoes so you have some left for bubble and squeak the next day



Roughly shaking the potatoes and leaving them to steam dry will give you crunchy roasties



Packed with vitamins, this green-vegetable medley tastes good, too

## Sautéed sprouts, sugar snaps & beans

TAKES 10MIN

- 250g sprouts, halved if large
- 250g sugar snap peas ■ 250g green beans, tailed ■ 2tbsp finely chopped shallots ■ 1 garlic clove ■ 75g butter
- 3 stalks of lemon thyme, leaves picked ■ Splash of white wine

1 Steam the sprouts, sugar snaps and beans for 3-5min until just tender. Refresh under cold running water. Transfer to a bowl of iced water and chill until needed.

2 Sauté the shallots and garlic in the butter for 5min. Add the thyme and white wine, allow to bubble, then toss the vegetables in the sauce until they are warmed through. Season and serve.

## Perfect roast potatoes

TAKES 20MIN PLUS 40MIN IN THE OVEN

- 1.2kg Maris Piper potatoes, peeled and halved ■ 6tbsp goose fat
- 4 garlic cloves, bashed ■ 2 stalks of rosemary, bashed ■ 1 pinch of chilli flakes (optional)

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling salted water for 10min. Drain them well, toss roughly in a colander, then return them to the pan and leave for a few min to steam dry.

2 Meanwhile, heat the goose fat in a large roasting tin until it is very hot. Add the potatoes carefully and toss well to coat. Sprinkle with 2tsp sea salt and the garlic, rosemary and chilli flakes, if using, then toss again. Roast for 40min, turning occasionally.



You can keep this sauce in the fridge for up to eight days

## CRANBERRY SAUCE

TAKES 15MIN PLUS COOLING

- 400g cranberries ■ Juice of 2 oranges ■ 2tbsp dark brown sugar ■ 4tbsp port ■ 5 cloves ■ 1 cinnamon stick

1 Put all the ingredients in a pan. Bring to the boil, then simmer very gently until the cranberries begin to burst. Taste, adding more sugar if needed. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

2 Remove from the heat and let the sauce cool to room temperature. Chill in an airtight container until 30min before serving.

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## Extra-fruity Christmas pudding

TAKES 6HR 20MIN, PLUS OVERNIGHT SOAKING AND COOLING

- 100g each of raisins, sultanas, dried apricots and pitted prunes or figs ■ Grated zest and juice of  $\frac{1}{2}$  large orange ■  $\frac{1}{2}$  eating apple (Pink Lady or Jazz) ■  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ground cinnamon ■  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp mixed spice (or a mixture of ground nutmeg, allspice and ground cloves)
- 1½tbsp good marmalade ■ 3tbsp Oloroso sherry ■ 2½tbsp brandy
- 1½tbsp melted butter ■ 2 eggs
- 25g flaked almonds ■ 50g ground almonds ■ 65g fresh white or brown breadcrumbs ■ 150ml double cream ■  $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp icing sugar
- 1tbsp Calvados or your favourite festive spirit ■ Few fresh or frozen cranberries, to serve
- Bay leaves, brushed with edible gold lustre, to decorate (optional)

**1** Put the raisins and sultanas in a large bowl, then use scissors to cut the apricots and prunes or figs into

small pieces, straight into the bowl. Add the orange zest and juice. Coarsely grate the unpeeled apple straight in, working around the core. Stir in the spices, marmalade, sherry and brandy. Mix well, cover and leave overnight in a cool place (not the fridge).

**2** Stir the butter, eggs, flaked and ground almonds and breadcrumbs into the soaked fruit. Place a small disc of greaseproof paper in the base of a 1pt (600ml) buttered pudding basin, pressing it down well. Put the pudding mixture into the basin, then cover it with a piece of pleated nonstick baking paper and cover that with pleated foil. Secure with string

and create a string handle from one side of the basin to the other.

**3** Cook over boiling water in a steamer with a tight-fitting lid for 3hr, checking the water every hour and topping it up so it doesn't boil dry. You can save cooking time by using a pressure cooker – check its instructions for exact timings.

**4** Take the basin out and leave the pudding to cool completely. Remove the paper and foil, and replace with clingfilm and new foil. Store in a cool place until needed.

**5** To reheat, remove the foil, replace the clingfilm with a sheet of nonstick baking paper and put the foil back on. Steam, as above, for 3hr, then leave to cool for 20min.

**6** Lightly whip the double cream with the icing sugar and alcohol.

**7** Turn your pudding out onto a plate, place a few cranberries on top and add the decorated bay leaves.

Serve with the boozy cream.



If you're going to light your pudding when serving it, remove the berries and leaves

# GOT A BAD CASE OF THURSDAY FRIDGE? WE'VE GOT A RICE FOR THAT.



We've all been there, trying to conjure up something that's good and tasty from what's left in the fridge. Thankfully our range of delicious Heat and Eat rice makes that a whole lot easier any day of the week.

For recipe ideas from Beijing to Barcelona visit [www.wevegotariceforthat.com](http://www.wevegotariceforthat.com)



# In the GARDEN

Make the most of your outdoor space this month with our expert tips and essential know-how

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Holly comes into its own in winter – perfect for creating festive decorations, the spiked leaves also make an effective slug deterrent

## To-do list for DECEMBER

**PICK** holly and other seasonal greenery to use for Christmas decorations, cutting from different sections to avoid heavy pruning that could leave plants vulnerable to frost. Mix contrasting foliage and yellow and red berries.

**PLANT** an informal rose hedge if the ground isn't frozen. Bare-rooted plants are available now and are perfect for cheap hedging – try dog rose (*Rosa canina*), which has scarlet hips.

**SOW** cyclamen seeds in pots now to plant out in spring for attractive autumn blooms and ground cover.

*Grow something beautiful...*

## SORBUS

Sorbus (or rowan) are decorative deciduous trees with autumn and winter berries in a variety of colours, including white, pink, orange and blue, while the red berries are a winter favourite with birds. Many Sorbus have small spring flowers, too.

**HOW TO GROW** Sorbus trees do best on fertile, well-drained soil, not unlike on a mountain slope. Although they appreciate moist summers, they don't like chalky soils or damp soil around the roots. They prefer full sun or dappled shade, and can cope with exposure. As many species of rowan are quite compact, they're ideal for small gardens. Underplant with early flowering hellebores or bulbs, such as crocus. A good tip from the Victorians was to plant them on a mound to ensure good drainage.



For pretty pink berries that last into December, try *Sorbus pseudovilmorinii*

### VARIETIES TO TRY

### BEST FOR

#### *Sorbus 'Wisley Gold'*



Its branches form a wide, loose canopy, with sprays of small, white flowers followed by long lasting yellow berries.

Planting as a statement specimen tree in a small garden. Its prolific berries offer strong autumn colour.

#### *Sorbus 'Eastern Promise'*



With its upright habit and oval crown, this sorbus has white flowers in spring, followed by bright, rose pink berries.

Coastal and other exposed areas. It thrives as a street tree, tolerating different soils and weather conditions.

#### *Sorbus 'Sunshine'*



Has an open canopy of feathery leaves and clusters of delicate flowers that attract nectar seeking insects in spring.

Adding drama and helping to lift a dark area. Its light canopy and berries are stunning offset against the reddish stems.

## LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Brighten up a kitchen by transplanting your favourite supermarket herbs to these lovely retro enamel pots

Big Spot herb pot set, Orla Kiely range, Bloomsbury

£44.95



## Weekend project WITH TOM HART DYKE



**Make a knockout statement with a tub-grown tree known for its winter bark.**

The Himalayan silver birch (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*) has shimmering white stems, while the peeling bands on the bark of the Tibetan cherry

(*Prunus serrula*) is beautifully tactile. But my favourite for winter bark is the snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*), with its patchwork of creamy white and pink bark. Pot one up in a large tub on a patio or drive. Buy a tall, multi-stemmed one and position it to catch the waning winter

sunshine – fairy lights entwined in the stems will show them off even more.

**Tom Hart Dyke is a horticulturalist, plant hunter and creator of The World Garden of Plants in Kent**



The Tibetan cherry has striking bark



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Meet Amy, our expert blogger: she'll keep you one step ahead in the ever-changing world of tech

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## TREND ALERT!

### TOYS GET A TECH-OVER

From Meccano to magic sets, traditional favourites are being souped up for 21st-century boys and girls

**WHY WE LOVE THEM...** Hi-tech toys aren't new – I mean, who didn't have a Tamagotchi in their stocking in the mid-Nineties? However, the latest toys are increasingly complex – think Meccano robots you can interact with and magic tricks you can do with your phone. Even the gaming experience has moved on – now, instead of staring at a TV screen, you can wear futuristic headgear and be fully immersed in a virtual reality.

**PRODUCTS WE LOVE...** I predict that Meccano's Meccanoids will be popular

this year – I also suspect that most kids won't get a look-in as Mum and Dad fulfil their dreams of building their own robot. Virtual Reality (VR) headsets will be big news, too – those, such as Oculus's Rift and HTC's Vive, have a built-in screen and plug into a computer or games console for the ultimate 360° experience with a price tag to match. However, there are more affordable options that have a slot in the front for your phone – just download a few apps to get a feel for what VR has to offer.

#### Track star

**Real FX Racing,**  
Toys 'R' Us

This track has no slots. Instead, artificial intelligence keeps the radio-controlled cars on the circuit, while you deal with tyre blowouts and pit stops



£99.99

#### Mobile magic

**Marvin's i-Magic Interactive Box Of Tricks,** Argos

Amaze friends and family with more than 50 tricks you can do using your Apple or Android phone



£24.99

£350

#### Hi, robot

**Meccanoid G15 KS,**  
Meccano range,  
Maplin

Who needs imaginary friends when you can build a robot, teach it jokes and dances, and get it to obey (almost) your every command?



£59.99

#### Other worldly

**VR headset,**  
Homido range,  
Amazon.co.uk

This can house a range of Apple and Android phones. Download the app for easy access to some amazing virtual worlds



## GIRL ABOUT TECH'S MANIFESTO

I believe that tech should...

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly

**FACT!** 63% of people would rather give up chocolate than their smartphone

# Smart home kit from Samsung

Take control with this easy-peasy home-automation system

## FEATURES WE LOVE

**1 The system's simple setup.** All you have to do is plug the Hub into a power socket and your router, and download the SmartThings app to your iOS, Android or Windows Phone. You can then add as many devices as you like and control them through the app, wherever you are.

**2 Its four devices.** There's a Motion Sensor, which will send a notification to your smartphone if it detects movement, and a Multi Sensor that will alert you if a window, door or cat flap opens or closes. There's also a Presence Sensor that you can attach to, say, a kid's backpack, so you'll know they've arrived home from school safely. Finally, the Power Outlet can be used to control any appliance that's plugged into it – a godsend for those 'I've left the iron on' moments. It can also be set to a timer, so you could fire up the coffee maker automatically every morning, provided it only needs to be turned on at the mains.

**3 Its compatibility.** It works with hundreds of devices, including Bose speakers, Honeywell's Wi-Fi heating control, Philips Hue and Lifx light bulbs,

Yale smart locks, D-Link's smart video camera and more Samsung products, such as a Moisture Sensor to detect leaks. Look out for the 'Works with SmartThings' logo, and you'll know that you can add the gadget to your system.

**4 You can create rules for any eventuality.** Press 'I'm Home' and you could get the door to unlock and a light and music to come on. Or set a timer to get that coffee brewing and to wake you up gently with a sunrise simulation from a Hue bulb. All it takes is a few clicks and the possibilities are endless.



Object of desire

SmartThings  
starter kit,  
£199, Samsung

The hi-tech way to...

Fill their stockings

And they're all under £50



£49.99

Play away

Blufiniti Bluetooth speaker, Otone

Tiny but certainly not tinny, this water-bottle-sized speaker streams music for up to 10 hours per charge and connects with one tap



£24.99

Tough love

Phone or tablet case, Case Station

This robust design is less prone to fading or cracking. Personalise yours with a photo or pick one of the many fantastic designs available\*



£19.90

Mighty mouse

Francesca Fox wireless mouse, Play collection, Logitech

Put some fun into homework with this wireless mouse. Francesca works with most PCs and Macs

£19.99

All about the bass

Smile Jamaica Mint in-ear headphones, House of Marley

If you like your bass booming, these eco-conscious wooden earphones are a good option and a portion of each sale goes to the 1Love charity

## Because it's beautiful

I often hark back to a time before the shuffle button, when the teenage me would drop the needle on my dad's turntable, sink into my beanbag and listen to an LP from start to finish. Of course, the best vinyl experience will come from investing in a top-notch separates system, but for a more affordable starting point, try this portable player from Crosley. It spins 7in and 12in discs, and the RCA Audio output lets you plug in your own speakers for a more powerful sound.



Crosley Cruiser turntable in Mint, £100, Urban Outfitters

£100

This portable turntable has built-in speakers, or you can plug in your own

**FACT!** Vinyl album sales are up a staggering 69% versus the same period in 2014

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# GET 20% OFF new homeware

Brighten up your interiors with modern, vibrant home accessories from Joules

**J**British lifestyle brand Joules creates covetable clothing for women, men and children that's both practical and fun to wear. So if you love its bright floral wellies or gilets in can't-miss-me colours, you'll be pleased to know that the company's uplifting style is now available as exciting and eclectic homeware.

The collection showcases Joules's passion for distinctive design and attention to detail, and will bring life and colour to your home in the same way as its clothing does to wardrobes.

The statement bed linen, cushions, crockery and tea towels offer a fresh

take on country style, with dynamic patterns and nostalgic prints in bold, vibrant colours that will instantly give a boost to almost any interior.

Heritage-inspired prints have been given a modern update and used on duvet covers and pillowcases, kitchen textiles, tableware and soft furnishings. Choose from bright floral designs with flashes of neon, or contemporary prints with a twist.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Joules to offer you 20% off its exciting product range in store and online. Just use the code IDELAH20 at the checkout when you place your order.

## HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To receive your 20% discount, go to [joules.com](http://joules.com), choose your products, then use the code IDELAH20 at the checkout, or visit a Joules store and present this voucher when you pay.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** This offer is valid from 9am on 27 October 2015 until 11.59pm on 8 December 2015. This offer can be redeemed online at [joules.com](http://joules.com) by entering code IDELAH20 and in store at Joules UK stores (excluding concessions) by presenting the code at the checkout. The 20% discount will be applied at the checkout online or in store. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other Joules offer or discount, or on sale items. Additionally, the discount cannot be redeemed against postage costs nor used to buy Joules gift vouchers. This offer may only be redeemed once, is redeemable against full-priced items only and may not be redeemed against any items already purchased. There is no cash alternative. This offer is subject to availability, while stocks last. Joules reserves the right to change these terms and conditions at any time. These terms and conditions will apply only to this offer and are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England and Wales, which shall also have jurisdiction in relation to any disputes.

# You'll love this...

## Epic espresso maker



Forget tea – it's coffee that makes everything better in my world, and I've learned that the tastiest brew comes from grinding the beans on



E6 bean-to-cup coffee machine, £695, Jura

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE

the spot, which is what this bean-to-cup machine from Jura does. Not only that, but the E6 also has a unique way of firing the water through the grounds in bursts to tease more flavour from the beans. It's no gimmick – the espressos and ristrettos I tried were super-smooth with not a hint of bitterness. Like a longer drink? Attach the optional vacuum milk container and order a cappuccino from the colour touchscreen.

**GIRL ABOUT TECH.**  
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

OR TRY ONE OF THESE...  
**Bean-to-cup machines**

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING  
DIRECTORY



### *Starter model*

**EA8150, Krups**

#### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

'Designed with newbies in mind, the menu is easy to navigate and it tells you when to run cleaning and descaling programmes'



### *Barista style*

**The Oracle, Sage by Heston Blumenthal**

#### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

'This does almost everything automatically, including dosing the coffee and frothing the milk'



### *Creamy cappuccinos*

**Autentica Cappuccino, De'Longhi**

#### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

'It's the best at texturing milk, and the carafe cleans itself. Just need a caffeine hit? It makes extra-large double espressos'

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# You'll love this... Attention-grabbing TV

You won't be able to drag yourself away from this incredible screen that immerses you in the action like never before



Ready to gorge on some Christmas telly? Then may I suggest this 4K Ultra High Definition (UHD) screen? It delivers four times the detail of a Full HD set for super-clear images and vibrant colours – be that Minions yellow or *Downton Abbey*

beige. Plus, while we wait for the likes of Sky and the BBC to offer more 4K UHD content, this TV can upscale regular HD content for a better picture straightaway. The curved design is more than a style choice – it draws you deeper in, wherever you sit, so there's no need to fight for the perfect spot, Sheldon Cooper-style, come the Queen's speech...

GIRL ABOUT TECH,  
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR  
AND BLOGGER



FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE

OR TRY ONE  
OF THESE...  
**4K TVs**

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
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### *Winning formula*

K321 40in 4K UHD LED flatscreen TV, Hisense

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 'Get four times the detail of Full HD, as well as smart apps, such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix, without having to pay big bucks'



### *Beautifully intuitive*

TX-50CX802B 50in 4K UHD flatscreen TV, Panasonic

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 'The depth and authenticity of the colour rivals pricier OLED TVs, and Freeview Play lets you watch shows on catch-up straight from the TV guide'



### *Pin-sharp picture*

55EG960V 55in 4K UHD OLED curved TV, LG

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 'The impossibly thin screen contains lots of organic light-emitting diodes for an ultra-realistic picture – you'll be amazed at how much more detail you'll see'

# WIN £70,000

## cash to create a perfect home

Use this amazing cash prize to help you revamp your rooms



**A**s the days get colder and darker, we tend to spend more time cosying up at home. So why not use this time to tackle a decorating project? Whether you've been dreaming about a top-of-the-range kitchen or a new extension, anything is possible with this amazing cash prize.

Most of us need a push to get started on a DIY project, and this could be just the thing to kick-start your plans. Simply check the number printed on the front cover of this issue of Ideal Home, then call, text or send your details following the details provided (right). If the number

on your cover matches the number we give, you could be our lucky winner.

### HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

If you have checked your number (see right) and you've been informed it's a match, send a photocopy of your front cover, plus your name, address, daytime telephone number and the prize you're claiming to: Ideal Home December Claim Lucky Numbers, Spoke, Titan Court, 3 Bishops Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9NA, to arrive no later than 15 December 2015. Please send by recorded delivery and keep the original cover safe, as we will need it to verify your claim at a later date.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** Competition closes midnight 1 December 2015. The entry instructions form part of the rules. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. All claimants must be in possession of the original Ideal Home December front cover bearing a winning number. In the event of printing or technical errors, omissions or duplications, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd reserves the right to withhold a particular prize or to declare the Game void. Time Inc. (UK) Ltd retains the right, at its discretion, not to award prizes to claimants or consortiums who have won a Lucky Numbers Game in the past 12 months, or to claimants who, in the opinion of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, have not entered into the spirit of the Game. Prizes must be accepted as offered. No entrant can win more than one prize. The Game is open to all readers aged 18 or over and resident in the UK, and the Channel Islands, other than employees (and their families) of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd the reproduction house, printer and distributor of Ideal Home magazine, wholesale and retail newsagent, SP: Spoke (UK) Ltd and any participating sponsors and their agents. The Editor's decision is final and no other correspondence will be entered into. All winners will be confirmed in writing and must agree to publicity. For Customer Service, call 0333 202 3390.

### HOW TO ENTER

#### How to find out if you have a winning number

**BY PHONE** To see if you have won, call **0906 174 9357**. Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge and should last no longer than two minutes. Have your lucky number ready when you call us.

**BY TEXT** To see if you have won, **text IHA** followed by a space and your lucky number (for example, IHA 1234567) to 82772. Texts cost £3 plus your standard network charges. When you enter by text, you may in future get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and Ideal Home magazine. If you'd prefer not to, please end your text with NO INFO.

**BY POST** To see if you have won, write your seven-digit lucky number and contact details on a postcard and send to: Ideal Home Lucky Numbers/December Spoke, Titan Court, 3 Bishops Square, Hatfield AL10 9NA to arrive no later than 24 November 2015. You will be notified by letter if you are the lucky winner.

# Appy talk

## BEAUTY

Beauty on the go doesn't mean a handbag full of products – these apps will make sure you're always perfectly polished



### WAHANDA

iOS and Android, free

Wahanda is a quick-click solution to booking beauty treatments at a price to suit you. Find salons and spas in your area (there are more than 7,000 to choose from nationwide), search by type of treatment, book or reschedule an appointment time and even browse special offers. The really great bit is that there are ratings and reviews from previous customers.

**ALSO TRY** WhatSalon, free for iOS and Android



### THINK DIRTY

iOS, free

No giggling at the back! Think Dirty is actually a hugely addictive scanning app for those who prefer their beauty products to be natural. Scan the product's barcode and it'll give you a rating from one to 10 based on how many nasties are lurking in the bottle, as well as information on the natural ingredients it contains. It will also show you product alternatives that are 'cleaner'.

**ALSO TRY** Skin Deep, free for iOS



### MIRROR

Windows Phone, free

This smart app does exactly what it says on the tin, turning your phone into a clear mirror that's perfect for touching up make-up, replacing a contact lens or banishing lipstick from your teeth. You'll need to have a front-facing camera but unlike the selfie option on your phone, you get a realistic mirror view. It's also equipped with a flip mode, so you can change your mirror to a real view in a flash.

**ALSO TRY** @Mirror, free for iOS, or Mirror, free for Android



### FACETUNE

iOS, £2.99; Android, £1.99; Windows Phone, £2.29

Selfie fans and casual snappers alike will love this app for its easy portrait touch-ups, meaning you'll never have to delete a dodgy picture again. You can whiten teeth, smooth out skin or whisk away pimples. There's also the option of tinting lips, cheeks or eyes, erasing stray hairs and removing red eye before finishing with a studio-style filter.

**ALSO TRY** Visage Lab, free for iOS and Android



### iDRATED

iOS, 79p

If there was a product that promised to keep your skin looking younger and plumper, it'd be flying off the shelves. Fortunately, that's what drinking water does, so an app that monitors your daily intake is a no-brainer. It's simple to log every glass and it gives you gentle nudges to drink more – you can also see your stats for the last seven days and set target levels.

**ALSO TRY** Water Your Body, free for Android



### MOTIONX 24/7

iOS, 79p

Getting enough sleep is one of the most important tools in your beauty box of tricks. Make sure you snooze sweetly with MotionX 24/7, which monitors how well you're sleeping and can be set to wake you at the best time in a cycle. It includes an alarm for power naps, soothing white noise or fade-out music to nod off to, a heart-rate monitor and an activity tracker.

**ALSO TRY** Sleep Cycle alarm clock, 99p for Android; 79p for iOS



### MAKEUP GENIUS

iOS and Android, free

While there are plenty of make-up apps that leave you looking more clown than catwalk-ready, Makeup Genius is smarter. It uses mapping technology to scan your face in real time, so you can add eyeshadow and lipstick, and move your face with the 'make-up' in place. You can also save pictures, switch products and try on preloaded celebrity looks to feel red-carpet fabulous.

### ALSO TRY

Virtual Makeover, free for iOS and Android



### ASK BOBBI

iOS, free

Smoky eyes? Check. Glowing cheeks? Done. Elegant brows? Nailed it. Ask Bobbi (from make-up guru Bobbi Brown) is full of step-by-step guides. Just type in what you need advice on (topics range from make-up for glasses wearers to bridal beauty) and Bobbi will suggest a how-to. It can also locate your nearest make-up counter, so you can book a free lesson.

**ALSO TRY** Beauty App, £1.49 for Windows Phone

# Girl About Tech explains...

# Multi-room music systems

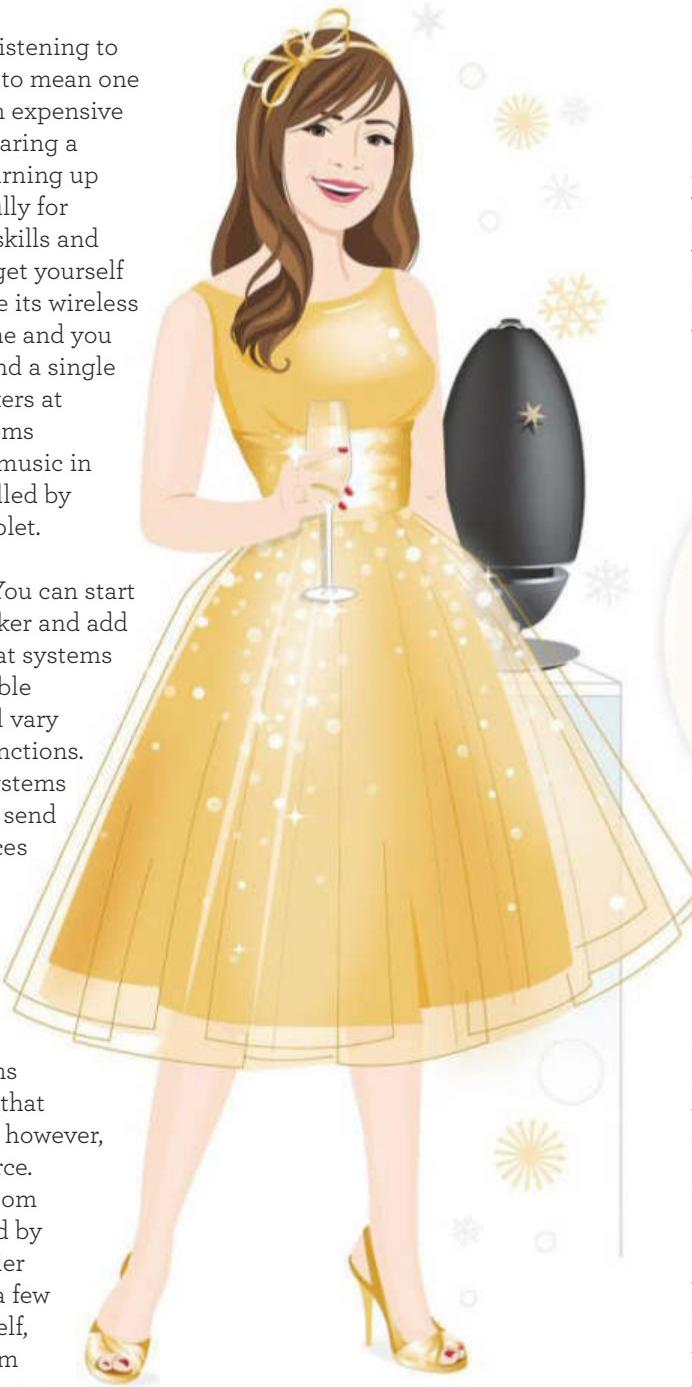
Spread the party to every corner of your home this Christmas with connected speakers

**WHAT ARE THEY?** Listening to music in every room used to mean one of three things – having an expensive audio system installed, wearing a Walkman at all times or turning up the hi-fi to ‘11’. But thankfully for your bank balance, social skills and neighbours, you can now get yourself a multi-room system. Place its wireless speakers around your home and you can connect to them to send a single song to one or more speakers at the same time. Some systems also let you play different music in different rooms, all controlled by just one smartphone or tablet.

**WHAT DO I NEED?** You can start out with just a single speaker and add as you go, but be aware that systems often aren’t cross-compatible with other brands, and will vary in terms of quality and functions.

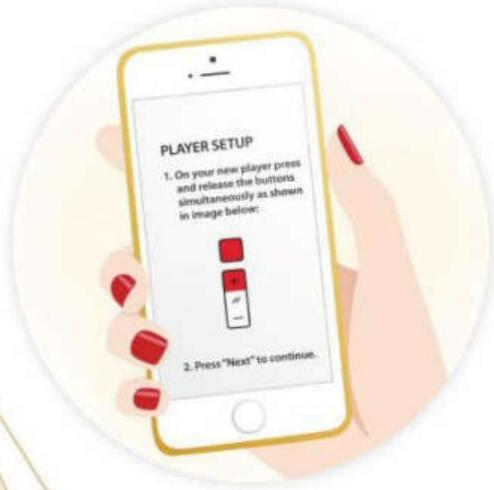
Powerful Wi-Fi-based systems such as Sonos, will let you send music from different sources to different places, so you can send a Spotify playlist to your living room, local radio to the kitchen and tracks from your iTunes library to the bedroom. Traditionally, these systems required a ‘bridge’ – a box that plugged into your router – however, these are increasingly scarce.

More simplistic multi-room speakers, like those offered by Philips and Ruark, are easier to set up just by pressing a few buttons on the speaker itself, but they only let you stream the same track between places.



## 1 CHOOSE A SYSTEM

The multi-room system you pick will depend on what's most important to you. Do you value supreme audio quality over everything else, or are you after something that's easy, fun and affordable? Do you want similar speakers in each room, or would you prefer a wider range of options? Samsung, for example, lets you add soundbars and TVs to its system, while Philips and Panasonic both include CD players in their line-up.



## 2 CONNECT THE SPEAKERS

In the case of Wi-Fi systems, first download the free companion app and make sure your smartphone or tablet is connected to your home Wi-Fi network. Now power up your speaker, open the app and select ‘add a new speaker’ – you might need to press a pairing button on the speaker, too. Some systems have an extra step that optimises the sound depending on where you place the speaker in the room.



## 4 CONVERT OLDER EQUIPMENT

Plenty of wireless systems – such as those from Denon, Samsung and Pure – let you integrate older equipment via an adaptor. In some cases, you can even hook up a turntable and play vinyl through the house, which should please those who think analogue sound is superior to digital.



## 5 SUBSCRIBE TO MORE MUSIC

With your music collection easier to access than ever, it's inevitable you'll tire of your own library of songs – yes, even *Everybody (Backstreet's Back)*. That's why lots of multi-room speakers can be used alongside music services like Spotify, TuneIn Radio and Google Play Music, putting millions more (and possibly less-embarrassing) tracks at your disposal. Once you've subscribed, systems like Sonos and Bose will let you access the service through their controller app. Also look out for speakers that support Spotify Connect. These stream tracks from your Spotify account directly over Wi-Fi, rather than using your phone as a medium, so when you go to answer a call, the tunes won't stop.

## 3 CREATE ZONES

Once you've added a few speakers, you'll usually have the option to group them together – for example, by room – so they're easier to control. Some systems also let you pair up individual speakers to re-create left-right stereo separation or even a full 5.1 surround-sound experience. However, you might be limited in the number of speakers that will play the same song at once. In the case of Philips' Izzy basic Bluetooth system, you can group together up to five speakers, whereas for others, there's no limit!

### Try these...

#### MULTI-ROOM SYSTEMS



From £165

#### New and improved

Play range, Sonos

##### GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Includes this revamped Play:5, £429, with room-filling sound and on-speaker controls for volume and skipping tracks'



From £170

#### Lots of options

All Series range, Panasonic

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 'A hi-fi, standalone speakers, CD player, clock radio and soundbars can be added to this system, and it supports Spotify Connect'



£400

#### Style leader

R2 Mk3 system, Ruark Audio

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 'It's one of the prettiest speakers I've seen, plus you can group up to eight together and stream the same track to all of them'



From £99

#### Simple streaming

Izzy range, Philips

##### GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Link up to five Izzy speakers by pressing the "group" button. There's a compact design, and one with a CD player and radio'

# Meet the brand

## MAGIMIX



5200XL food processor,  
£400, Magimix

Hailed by the *New York Times* as 'The French revolution of the 20th century', the Magimix is one of only a handful of appliances that's truly iconic. With such fans as Mary Berry and 'Deliciously Ella' Woodward, its success has a lot to do with its roots – it was invented by a French catering-equipment salesman to help his pro-chef clients prep ingredients. Today, the processor motor is guaranteed for 30 years, so you can be sure it will be a long-lasting helping hand in your kitchen

**GIRL ABOUT TECH,**  
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

### TWO MORE HERO DESIGNS

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,  
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



**Soup star**  
Le Blender,  
Magimix

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**  
'The blades inside the large heat-resistant glass jug blend ingredients incredibly finely for ultra-smooth soups and smoothies. It can quickly crush ice, too'



**Instant whip**  
Gelato Chef, Magimix

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**  
'Makes 1.5ltr of deliciousness in less than 30min, and you don't have to remember to chill the bowl beforehand – very handy when they all scream for ice cream'

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAGIMIX

**Sixties** Salesman Pierre Verdun launches the Robot-Coupe to help his catering clients with prepping tasks

**1984** The very first egg-white beater for a domestic processor is invented

**1988** A novel mini bowl inside the main bowl allows tasks to be carried out in quick succession



**2005** The design is tweaked, with an extra-large feeding tube and a new dough blade

**2015** The Pâtissier Multifunction is the first processor designed for keen bakers



**1971** Following the Robot Coupe's huge success, a scaled-down domestic version – the Magimix R1 – is introduced

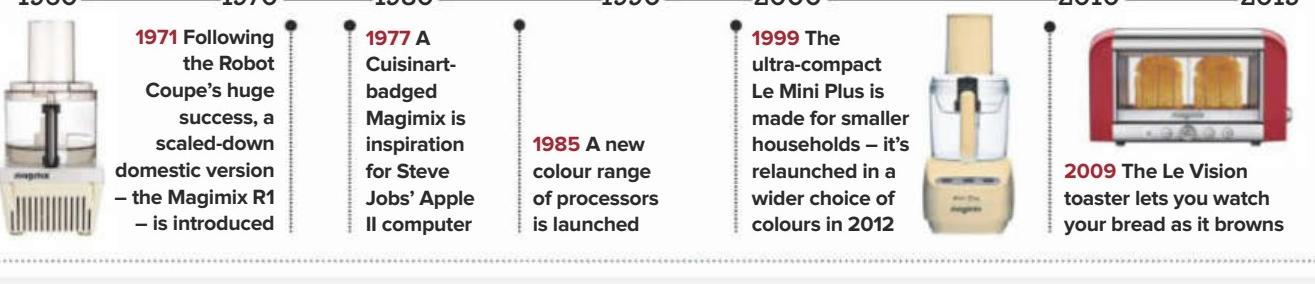
**1977** A Cuisinart-badged Magimix is inspiration for Steve Jobs' Apple II computer

**1985** A new colour range of processors is launched

**1999** The ultra-compact Le Mini Plus is made for smaller households – it's relaunched in a wider choice of colours in 2012



**2009** The Le Vision toaster lets you watch your bread as it browns



# VISIT THE Ideal Home Show at Christmas

Find everything you need for a magical festive season under one roof – and take a friend along for free



This winter, the Christmas edition of the Ideal Home Show, sponsored by Gocompare.com, is returning to EventCity Manchester from 12 to 15 November and, for the first time, will be coming to Olympia London from 25 to 29 November.

This annual shopping event brings you everything you need to get set for Christmas. With hundreds of exhibitors across seven sections, including Interiors & Furnishings, Food & Drink, Home Improvements & Outdoor Living, Fashion & Beauty, Technology & Gadgets, Gifts and Christmas Decorations, it's the biggest home

show at Christmas. Plus, you can enjoy live music, see cookery demonstrations from top celebrity chefs and discover the new toy-filled Christmas Arcade.

After a day of shopping, enjoy a glass of bubbly at the Champagne Bar, sponsored by Hydropool. Whether you're after a family day out, a shopping trip or some pamper time, this year's show will get you in a festive mood.

## VISIT THE CAKE & BAKE SHOW

Your ticket to the Ideal Home Show at Christmas at EventCity Manchester will also give you free entry to the Manchester Cake & Bake Show.

Get cooking tips from celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo



## GET YOUR 2-FOR-1 TICKETS

Book now and you can get two weekday tickets for the London show for £17.50, two weekend tickets for £19.50\* or two Manchester show tickets for just £15\*. For the London show, call 0844 209 7330 or visit [idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk](http://idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk) and quote offer code IHM241. For Manchester, call 0844 209 7366 or visit [idealhomeshowmanchester.com](http://idealhomeshowmanchester.com) and quote offer code IHM241.

\* Book before 11 November 2015 for the Manchester show and before 24 November 2015 for the London show. Offer valid on adult on the door ticket prices only (£17.50 on week days and £19.50 at weekends for the London show, all tickets £15 for the Manchester show). Concessions not included. £1.70 transaction fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go free when with a paying adult. Calls cost 6p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.





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## GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

China has fascinated our western minds in the most compelling way. Its immense size, almost unimaginable wealth and other worldly culture have together woven an intoxicating and quite irresistible spell.

### SELECTED DEPARTURES FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER 2016.

#### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Stay in hand picked **four-star** hotels with breakfast and 13 meals
- Enjoy a **five-star** Yangtze Three Gorges and Dam river cruise with full board
- Fully escorted sightseeing tours to a range of places, including the Terracotta Warriors, Chengdu Panda Research Centre, Beijing, the Great Wall and Shanghai
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager



## POMPEII, CAPRI & THE BAY OF NAPLES

Stay in famously delightful Sorrento and see the stunning Amalfi coast. Experience the historic and tragic magnificence of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and visit Mount Vesuvius and beautiful Ravello, with its cliffside gardens – all on our escorted tour to one of the most picturesque, adored and not to be missed regions of Italy.

### SELECTED DEPARTURES FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER 2016. THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Seven nights in a hand picked **three- or four-star** hotel with half board in enchanting Sorrento
- **Visits** to Capri, Vesuvius and Ravello
- **Tours** of Sorrento, the Naples National Archaeological Museum, the historic site of Pompeii and the dramatic Amalfi coast
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager



## LAKE GARDA, VENICE & VERONA

Enjoy the spectacular scenery of the snow capped Italian Alps and a tour of romantic Verona and Venice, on our escorted tour to beautiful Lake Garda.

### SELECTED DEPARTURES FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER 2016.

#### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights** from Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Bristol, Manchester or Dublin, plus taxes and transfers
- Seven nights' stay in hand picked lake-front hotels with **half board**
- Fully escorted, comprehensive **sightseeing tours** of idyllic Lake Garda and the stunning Dolomites mountains
- Fully escorted, comprehensive **sightseeing tours** of Verona and Venice
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager

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# ENJOY £10 OFF BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

Surprise someone special with freshly cut flowers from Bloom & Wild posted through their letterbox

Finding the perfect gift can be tricky, but everyone loves receiving flowers. Thanks to Bloom & Wild, sending them couldn't be easier. In the time it takes to text someone, you can arrange for a box of fresh flowers to be posted through their letterbox the very next day.

To order beautiful blooms, ranging from one-off bouquets to monthly subscriptions for the gift that keeps on giving, visit [bloomandwild.com](http://bloomandwild.com) or download the company's free app. Packaged with Bloom & Wild's signature attention to detail, each selection of seasonal flowers is designed to delight, and there's no need to worry about the recipient being at home, as the flowers are delivered through the letterbox.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Bloom & Wild to give readers £10 off their first order. Simply decide who you're going to treat this Christmas, then visit [bloomandwild.com/ideal](http://bloomandwild.com/ideal) or download the free app on iPhone and Android, entering the code IDEAL at the checkout, to choose from the beautiful flowers available.

## HOW TO CLAIM YOUR £10 VOUCHER

To get £10 off your first Bloom & Wild letterbox bunch of flowers, simply visit [bloomandwild.com/ideal](http://bloomandwild.com/ideal) or download the free Bloom & Wild app on iPhone or Android, and enter the code IDEAL at the checkout.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** Offer for new Bloom & Wild customers only. One use only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. £10 off any Bloom & Wild gift. Expires 30 November 2015. For full terms and conditions, visit [bloomandwild.com](http://bloomandwild.com)

BLOOM & WILD

GET  
£10 OFF  
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## GIANT AMARYLLIS PLUS FREE P&P, WORTH £5.99

These waxed bulbs don't need watering and can be placed anywhere in your home. Supplied with pretty pebbles in a glass pot, the 36/38cm bulbs will flower in six to 10 weeks

**ORDER FORM** Cut out and post in an envelope addressed to Ideal Home Waxed Amaryllis, PO BOX 2020, Pershore WR10 9BP. Please make cheques payable to Hayloft Plants

CODE	PRODUCT	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
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	<b>Postage &amp; Packing</b>	<b>£5.99</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>£</b>

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Card expiry date   Issue No   Start Date   CSV

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With side safety rails, an extra-high front safety rail 61cm (2ft) above the top step and wide, nonslip, rubber-trimmed steps, this is the perfect ladder for home and garden. The top step stands 96cm (3.1ft) from the floor, the ladder measures 158cm x 48cm x 85cm, and it folds down to 169cm x 48cm x 21cm, making it easy to carry and move around. It weighs 11kg (maximum user weight 150kg). The ladder costs £49.99 plus P&P, and was £129.99 – that's a saving of £80.

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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>£</b>

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## SAVE 20% on beauty treats

Find a special gift for a loved one with Heathcote & Ivory's new collection, which is inspired by the exotic scents of the rainforest

Whether you want to find the perfect Christmas present for someone you love or fancy buying an indulgent, pampering treat for yourself, Heathcote & Ivory is a great place to look. With lovely body products, from hydrating creams to cleansing hand wash, as well as exciting home-fragrance accessories, such as drawer liners and oil diffusers, there's something to suit all tastes.

As well as its usual floral ranges, Heathcote & Ivory now has a new Rainforest collection of body and home products - the latest installment

in its Explore, Dream, Discover trilogy. Inspired by the fragrance of a green rainforest canopy on the breeze, the collection captures the heady scents of tiare flower, bergamot and ylang-ylang, with the warmth of green tea, black pepper and amber, as well as orange and pink grapefruit notes.

To celebrate the launch of the new Rainforest collection, Heathcote & Ivory is offering Ideal Home readers an exclusive 20% off all orders placed online. Simply visit [heathcote-ivory.com](http://heathcote-ivory.com) until 31 December 2015 to choose your favourite products.

### HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To redeem your 20% discount, simply visit [heathcote-ivory.com](http://heathcote-ivory.com) and enter the code IDEALTREATS at the checkout.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** This offer entitles you to 20% off purchases at [heathcote-ivory.com](http://heathcote-ivory.com) and is redeemable against all collections except Cath Kidston and Accessorize. The offer is valid from 27 October to 31 December 2015 and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Discount cannot be redeemed against sale items or delivery charges. Subject to stock availability. UK delivery only.

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\*Optional excursions available. Single rooms are available for a supplement. Price per person is based on two people sharing. Subject to availability. Price can be withdrawn at any time. These holidays are operated by, and your resulting contract will be with, Newmarket Air Holidays/Promotions Ltd ABTA V7812/V787X, ATOL 2325 – a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.



## 6 BOTTLES OF PROSECCO

Ideal Home Wine, in association with Virgin Wines, is offering readers an exclusive selection of Italian Prosecco for just £6.50 per bottle. This case of six bottles was £63.94 and is now available for just £39 (plus P&P\*).

The case of six fine Proseccos includes four bottles of the medal winning sparkling Due Colline Prosecco and two bottles of the top rated Due Colline rosé spumante. Due Colline Prosecco is light and refreshing, with bursts of apple and peach, while Due Colline rosé spumante is a fabulously crisp, fruit filled fizz, with a gentle red berry finish. Please note that because stock is limited, this offer is restricted to one case per customer.

TO ORDER, visit [virginwines.co.uk/idealhomefizz](http://virginwines.co.uk/idealhomefizz) or call 0843 224 1001, quoting VA1066

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\*UK delivery only. P&P is £7.99 per case at the checkout. You must be 18 years of age or over to buy alcohol. Strictly one promotional case per customer. Calls cost 5p pm from a BT landline. Calls may be monitored or recorded for training purposes. Subject to availability and may be substituted for a similar wine of equal or greater value at our discretion. For full terms and conditions, visit [virginwines.co.uk](http://virginwines.co.uk). Your contract of goods is with Virgin Wines Online Ltd, a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.

Ideal Home

# Marketplace

*Looking to buy something for your home? You'll find it in our easy-to-follow guide*



## MARKETPLACE CATEGORIES

211	Bathrooms	214	Home Accessories
210	Beds & Bedding	206	Home Improvements
210	Blinds	210	Home Interest
206	Conservatories	212	Home Interiors
215	Education & Courses	205	Kitchens
213	Fabrics & Decoration	211	Miscellaneous
213	Fashion	208	Paints
206	Fires & Fireplaces	214	Rugs
214	Floor Coverings	208	Shutters
202	Furniture	212	Sofa & Sofabeds
206	Garden Furniture	207	Staircases
215	Gifts	205	Window Stylings
213	Heating & Radiators		

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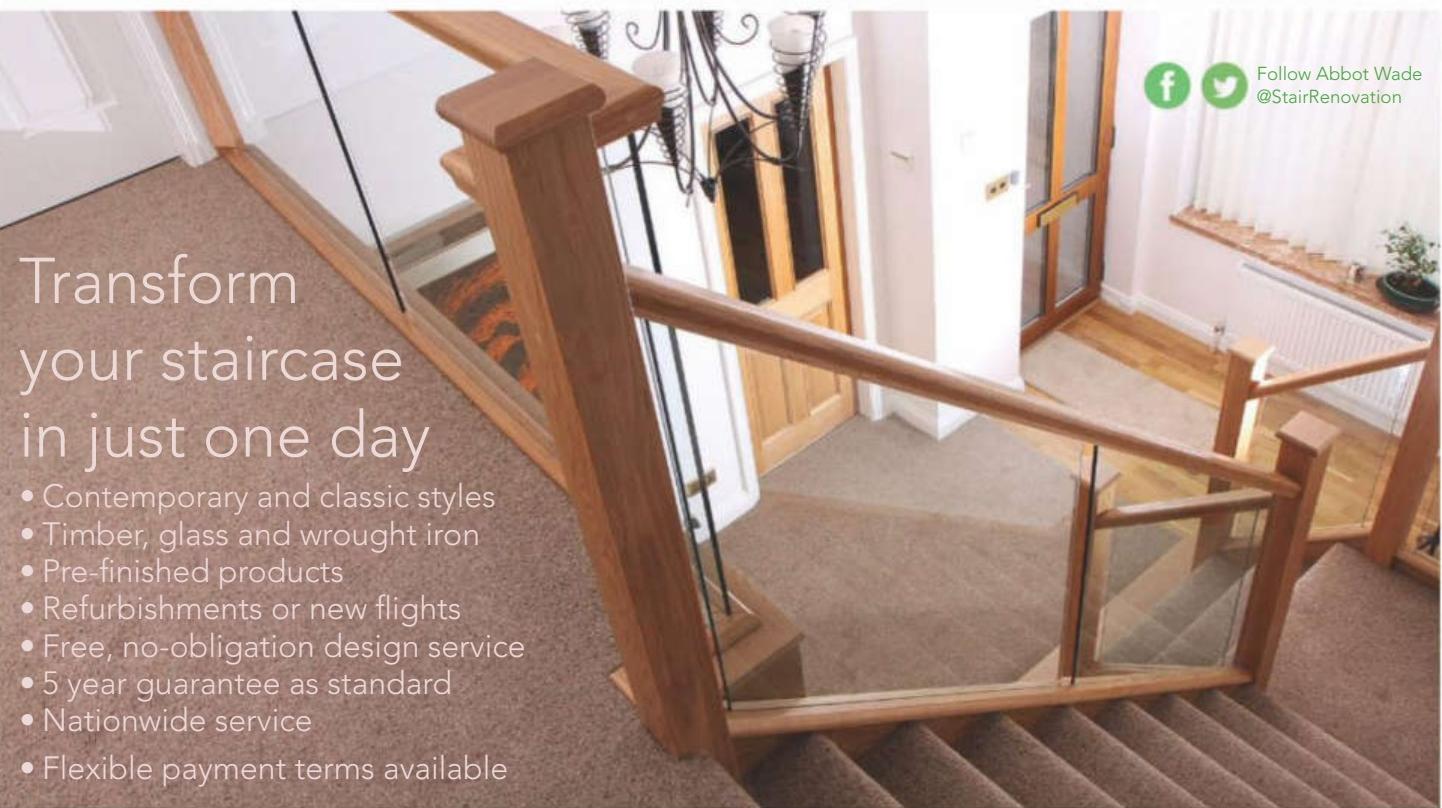
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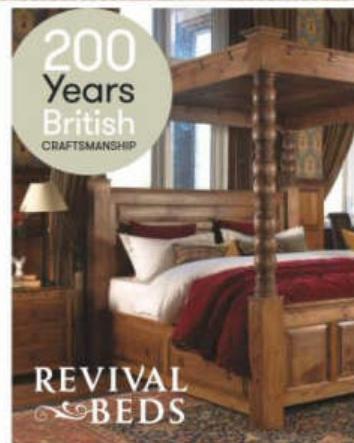
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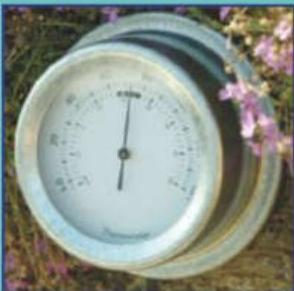


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**EDITORIAL**

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**3** **CHIC CHALET** Treat Hammy to his very own Alpine retreat – the Gingerbread Hideaway, £7 from Pets at Home, is the perfect place for small pets to hunker down

**4** **COUTURE KERCHIEF** The Courty Check hand-made designer dog scarf by MacKenzie Child, £36 from Amara, will make all the other pups in the park jealous



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**9** **POOCH POLO** Deck a doggy out in this fetching cable-knit jumper, £20.49. From Dogorama at Notonthehighstreet.com, it comes in various colours and sizes

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